



Healthcare Administration Newsletter

Department of Public Health
College of Health and Human Services

What's New?



HCA Alum Corey Johnson (2014),
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CareEco,
was honored during Homecoming 2024 for Young Alumni
Achievement at the Hilltopper Excellence Awards!



MHA Alum Devin Dame (2014),
Chief Executive Officer of Signature Health Care
of Bowling Green, was recognized in this year's
VIP Bowling Green Magazine, 40 Under 40!

An Academic Program Review (APR) for the MHA program was completed spring 2024. The process allowed MHA staff to review the program and receive feedback on both strengths and opportunities to improve. Program updates are being evaluated and discussed –more information coming soon!

In June 2024, the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB) voted to approve NAB academic re-accreditation for the Health Care Administration (HCA) with Long Term Care Administration (LTCA) certificate under the new Health Services Executive (HSE) criteria. The reaccreditation is for the next five (5) years, verifying the program provides top quality education and training in long term care.

Staff Spotlight: Landon Rager

Meet our newest member of the HCA/Public Health Department family...
Mr. Landon Rager from Elkton, KY!

“I am an alumnus of the Health Sciences and MPH program at WKU (21' and 22'). Prior to working at WKU, I worked at the Todd County Health Department as a Community Health Worker. Most of my free time is spent working on my family's farm. If I am not working, I enjoy hiking, weightlifting, and golfing.



My official title is Accreditation Specialist for the Department of Public Health. I assist all of our programs in pursuing and maintaining accreditation by assisting with student/alumni data collection, report development, site visit planning, and evaluation of the programs for quality improvement for both external accreditors and internal (WKU) evaluations. I also

have started teaching Public Health courses, specifically the Human Values and the Health Sciences course (PH 447), handle the applied practice experience for the MPH program and assist with developing student program of studies, and more.

Upcoming Events

HCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 7

2025 DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

February 13

THA LEGISLATIVE DAY

February 18

ANNUAL SHA DINNER

March 6

KHA QUALITY CONFERENCE

March 17–19

ACHE CONGRESS

March 24–27

ACHCA CONVENTION & EXPO

April 7–10

NAB ANNUAL MEETING

June 9–13

JUMP Program... Did you know you can earn up to 12 graduate course credits toward the completion of your Master of Health Administration graduate degree at WKU, for the cost of undergraduate tuition rates, WHILE you are still an undergraduate student in the Health Care Administration or Health Sciences programs??? Well you can! To see if you qualify and for more information, contact your designated program advisor or Dr. Ellis-Griffith at Gregory.Ellis-Griffith@wku.edu today!

- A minimum of 60 credit hours earned and 15 or more credit hours remaining to complete the undergraduate degree.
- A minimum of 24 undergraduate hours earned at WKU.
- A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.25 for individuals earning their first baccalaureate degree.
- A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 for individuals earning their second.

Master of Health Administration (MHA) Student Spotlight: Chase (Bailey) Reckart



My name is Chase Reckart. I am currently the Licensed Nursing Home Administrator (LNHA) for a 94-bed facility in South Central KY. Also, I recently got married and love Spencer's coffee shop (one of my campus favs).

In December of 2023, I completed a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration, with a focus in long-term care, at WKU. Currently, I am furthering my education at WKU in the MHA program and serve as the President of the Student Health Association.

In my current position as a LNHA, I oversee the day-to-day operations of a skilled nursing facility. My everyday routine varies greatly but I am always open to having students interested in this career path to spend a day with me—or grab a cup of coffee and answer any questions they may have!

Two of the best pieces of advice I can give students are:

- 1. Push yourself! Never settle with average.**
- 2. Network! Network! Network! This is how you land jobs. You never know who is connected with who!**

Study Abroad in Tanzania! Date: June 5 – July 5, 2025
 Subjects: Public Health, Pre-Med, Nursing, Service-Learning Practicum

Program Cost: \$5,375 + airfare

Deadline to Apply:

Dec. 1: *Apply Early & Save \$100*

Feb. 5: *Regular Deadline*

What's Included?

- Earn up to 6 Credit Hours
- Group Flight (Required)
- Airport Transfers in Tanzania
- Accommodations
- 2 Meals per Day
- Groups Excursions & Transport
- Dar es Salaam City Transport
- Security Evacuation Protection
- Medical Insurance

Program Director & Faculty on-site 24/7

For more information, contact Dr. William Mkanta at William.Mkanta@wku.edu or visit <https://www.kiis.org/programs/tanzania/>



STUDENT HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION

Want to be more involved? Want to maximize your networking opportunities? Want more learning experiences outside of the classroom? **JOIN SHA TODAY!!!**



For more information or to join SHA, contact Chase (Bailey) Reckart
chase.bailey087@topper.wku.edu OR Hallie Cassady hallie.cassady642@topper.wku.edu

General Guidelines for HCA 449 Internship Completion

Spring Internship	
Secure internship by	November 15th
Submit Site Affiliation form to Instructor by	November 20th
Start internship	January 21st
Complete internship	May 8th
Summer Internship	
Secure internship by	April 1st
Submit Site Affiliation form to Instructor by	April 10th
Start internship	May 15th
Complete internship	August 8th

*contact HCA Program Director Nadia Houchens for more information

Interested in participating in a case competition?

Never participated in a case competition but curious what it is all about?

If you are an undergraduate HCA or graduate MHA student and want to learn more about these opportunities, contact Ms. Nadia Houchens
Nadia.Houchens@wku.edu

Inquiry Deadline: April 1st

Claire Lantz: Health Care Administration (HCA) Student Spotlight

Hi! My name is Claire Lantz and I am currently a junior at WKU majoring in Health Care Administration. I am from Louisville, KY so not too far from here. My older sister decided to go to Western and she is two years older than me so her being at WKU definitely sparked an interest for me coming here. I had some other family members also attend WKU, so it is a pretty known school in our family. I went through rush during my first year at Western and joined AOII.

Through AOII I have met so many people, made connections that include healthcare and had many great opportunities for service and philanthropy as well! This year I recently got the opportunity to start working as the Administrative Assistant at Sky Rehab, which has opened my eyes to a lot. I have been working with HR, the Chief of Nursing Officer, and the Director of Quality and have already learned so much from them, as well as all that goes into admitting patients and the statistics that are involved in running a hospital. I am currently considering doing the JUMP program to also get my MHA at WKU!



Students and Staff in Action

Learning opportunities and community engagement happening outside of the classroom!

ACHE Congress

Kentucky Hospital Association

Leading Age Annual Meeting

MHA Case Competition

Off campus learning experiences:

Hospice of Southern Kentucky, Arcadia Senior Living & Med Center Adult Day

