JD/MHA Dual Degree Program
JD from Washington and Lee University | MHA from Virginia Commonwealth University
Health care is critically important to both society and to the individual. Health care is America’s largest industry, one of its most dynamic, and one of its most heavily regulated. Law permeates every aspect of health care organization, delivery, and finance. Health law is one of the most rapidly growing and exciting areas of legal practice.

The Juris Doctorate and Master of Health Administration (JD/MHA) dual degree is designed for students who wish to combine a solid legal education with exemplary preparation for a career in healthcare management. Completion of this dual degree allows graduates to compete successfully for a wide range of professional opportunities where the worlds of law and health care intersect.

The dual degree leads to a Juris Doctorate from Washington and Lee as well as a Master of Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University through an innovative and integrated curriculum that allows the student to complete in four and a half years two degrees that would take six years to obtain separately. Both schools are ranked in the top echelons of peer institutions, affording dual degree students an unparalleled opportunity to be at the top of their professions.

Professionals with legal and health administration training can look forward to careers “in the trenches” addressing the issues that shape and reshape this important sector of the American economy and have a profound effect on the life of every citizen.
HEALTH LAW AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

Scholars at W&L Law have long been engaged in the thoughtful and systematic examination of the close relationship of medicine and law.

The Dual Degree Program at Washington and Lee will be guided by Robert L. Willett Family Professor of Law Timothy Stoltzfus Jost. Professor Jost is a nationally recognized health law scholar and coauthor of a widely used casebook, treatise and hornbook on health law and has written extensively on health care regulation and comparative health law and policy.

Professor Ann MacLean Massie is widely recognized as an authority on Biomedical Ethics and has recently published scholarly articles on the professional standard of care and legislation banning so-called “partial-birth” abortion.

The W&L Law curriculum includes courses on insurance law, professional negligence, the abortion controversy and other topics of interest to Dual Degree Program students.

W&L Law students have distinguished themselves in health law writing competitions, winning prizes for their submissions to the American College of Legal Medicine and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Washington and Lee recently hosted symposia on Medicare and on racial disparities in health care. Distinguished health law scholars who have visited W&L Law include:

The Future of Medicare, Post Great Society and Post + Choice:
Legal and Policy Issues
• Robert Berenson, Urban Institute
• Phyllis Bernard, Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, Oklahoma City University School of Law
• Dean Harris, Department of Health Policy and Administration and School of Law, University of North Carolina
• David Hyman, University of Illinois School of Law
• Eleanor Kinney, Center for Law and Health, Indiana University School of Law
• Theodore Marmor, Yale School of Management
• Marilyn Moon, Health Program, American Institutes for Research
• Jonathan Oberlander, Department of Social Medicine, University of North Carolina
• Mark Pauly, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
• Thomas Stanton, Department of Social Medicine, Johns Hopkins University
• Bruce Vladeck, former administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration

Racial Disparities in Health Care
• Sidney Watson, Saint Louis University School of Law
• Venelita Randall, University of Dayton School of Law

Other speakers:
• Sara Rosenbaum, School of Public Health and Health Services, George Washington University Medical Center
• Clark Havighurst, Duke University School of Law
• Herman Nys, Medical School and Law School, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; University of Maastricht
• Rosemary Stevens, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AT VCU

VCU’s Department of Health Administration is one of the oldest providers of health administration education in the nation. For more than 50 years, the Department has maintained its mission of educating men and women to lead complex health care organizations. Consistently ranked by US News & World Report as one of the nation’s Top 10 Health Administration programs, VCU is viewed by education and health care leaders as program of choice in the field of health care administration.

The curriculum is carefully planned and frequently updated to reflect the rapidly changing health care industry. All courses are designed with application to diverse health care settings and ownership types (not-for-profit and for-profit organizations). Learning methods include case study, lecture, group projects, community projects, and experiential learning.

THE CURRICULUM

Credits to be taken at W&L Law: ................................................................. 70
(15 additional credits toward the JD will be awarded by W&L Law for coursework taken at VCU)

Credits to be taken at VCU: ..................................................................... 48

VCU

FALL
Health System Organization, Financing and Performance ............. 3
Health Care Managerial Accounting ................................................. 3
Health Systems Evaluation and Epidemiology ................................. 3
Organization Behavior and Design in Health Care Management ...... 3
Special Topics in Health Information Systems ................................ 1

SPRING
Financial Management in Health Care Organizations ................. 3
Health Economics .................................................................................. 3
Operations Management in Health Care Organizations ............... 3
Health Systems Analysis and Evaluation II ...................................... 3
Executive Skills I .................................................................................. 1

SUMMER
Health Administration Practicum I .................................................. 3

W & L LAW

FALL
Civil Procedure I ................................................................. 3
Contracts ......................................................................................... 4
Criminal Law .................................................................................... 3
Legal Writing ..................................................................................... 2
Torts I .............................................................................................. 4

SPRING
American Public Law Process ....................................................... 3
Civil Procedure II ................................................................. 3
Criminal Procedure ................................................................. 3
Legal Writing ..................................................................................... 2
Property ............................................................................................. 4

ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Health Care Quality Regulation ......................................................... 3
Health Law Organization and Finance ............................................ 3
Constitutional Law ............................................................................ 4
Professional Responsibility ............................................................. 3
(or another course or seminar designated by the School of Law as eligible to satisfy the ABA professional responsibility requirement)

Electives comprising remainder of credit requirements, which must include one substantial research and writing project completed under faculty supervision.

Electives comprising remainder of credit requiments, which must include one substantial research and writing project completed under faculty supervision.
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must be accepted for the Dual Degree Program by both VCU and W&L Law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Director
Office of Admissions
Washington and Lee University School of Law
Sydney Lewis Hall
Lexington Virginia 24450
540.458.8503
www.law.wlu.edu
lawadm@wlu.edu

Director
Graduate Program in Health Administration
Virginia Commonwealth University
PO Box 980203
Richmond, VA 23298-0203
804.828.0719
www.had.vcu.edu/dd/mha_jd.html