Lewis University Accelerated Programs

The School for Professional and Continuing Education provides adult students an opportunity to complete a college degree with a learner-centered, accelerated delivery format compatible with their needs and lifestyles. Most three semester credit hour courses are completed in five- or eight-week sessions.

The academic focus is on the integration of theory and practice emphasizing application, analysis and synthesis through collaborative learning experiences. Through small class size, group interaction and one’s unique life experiences, the classroom becomes a dynamic environment in which each student is an active participant.

Lewis faculty are prepared as teachers, scholars, researchers and practitioners. In the adult classroom, they serve as coaches, role models and facilitators. Faculty hold a master’s or doctoral degree, providing a rich blend of academic knowledge in their discipline with practical, professional experience.

Healthcare Leadership

This interdisciplinary program prepares healthcare providers for professional careers and leadership roles within dynamic healthcare organizations. To achieve this goal, the program draws from several academic disciplines including communication, healthcare administration, business, and the social sciences to provide learners with a holistic and humanistic approach to values-centered leadership. This values-centered approach integrates leadership theories with ethical behavior within the context of the organization’s values. In an era of increased financial constraints and regulatory demands, values-centered leadership provides organizations and their members a sound foundation for professional practice. This foundation serves to balance the environmental demands and increase the effectiveness of healthcare teams in today’s service-oriented, multicultural, healthcare system.

Program Entrance Requirements

Applicants should be at least 24 years of age; have earned a minimum of 12 semester (18 quarter) hours of transferable credit at a regionally accredited post-secondary institution; have earned a minimum of a 2.0 (4.0 scale) cumulative transfer GPA, based on all transferable courses to be considered for admission; and have at least 3 years of full-time work experience. Credits earned through PLA cannot be used for satisfying the transfer credit hour requirement for admission into an accelerated degree program.

Degree Requirements

- Successful completion of a minimum of 128 semester credit hours.
- Completion of 32 semester graded credit hours at Lewis University including four upper division foundation courses and/or major courses (12 semester credit hours.)
- Achievement of an overall grade point average of at least 2.00 (“C”) for all courses taken at Lewis University and a 2.20 average for the major area courses.
General Education
- College Writing I (3)
- College Writing II (3)
- Introduction to Human Communication (3)
- Mathematics (3) (satisfied by Statistics for the Social Science)
- Natural Science (3)
- Natural Science (3)
- Social Science (3)
- Social Science (3)
- Social Science (3)

Three of the following courses:
- Culture and Civilization I (3)
- Culture and Civilization II (3)
- Fine Arts Requirement (3)
- Introduction to Philosophy (3)
- Literature Requirement (3)

Two of the following Mission-based courses must be taken at Lewis:
- Christian Action and Values (3)
  OR Ethics (3)
- Cultural Diversity and Intergroup Relations (3)
- Theology (3)

Major Courses
- Communication in Healthcare Organizations (3)
- Healthcare Finance (3)
- Healthcare Leadership Practicum (3)
- Healthcare Operations (3)
- Healthcare Planning and Analysis (3)
- Leadership in Healthcare (3)
- Team Dynamics in Healthcare (3)
- United States Healthcare System (3)
- Managing Information in Healthcare (3)
- Management Skills for the Healthcare Professional

Related Electives
- Health and Wellness in the 21st Century (3)
- Managing Health by Managing Stress (3)
- Complementary and Alternative Healthcare (3)

Optional Minors
Minors are available in a variety of business and interdisciplinary areas including Accounting, Business Administration, Communication Technology, Computer Graphic Design, E-Business, Economics, Finance, Healthcare Leadership, Marketing, Computer Information Systems, Multimedia, Networking Technology, and Web Programming. (Note: not all of these are available in an accelerated/evening format.)

See an advisor for more information. Electives are dependent upon choice of major/concentration.

An advisor will work with students to select appropriate electives.
Major Courses

L7-300 United States Healthcare System: An examination of the current healthcare industry including impact of managed care on process and outcome. Also explores government and economic influence on the system. Topics include health policy, health values and beliefs, patient rights, reimbursement, malpractice, risk management, and coordination with regulating agencies from an industry perspective.

L7-310 Communication in Healthcare Organizations: Focus on personal and professional communication. Topics include structures and functions of healthcare communication, consensus building, conflict management, negotiation, mentoring, coaching, and cross-cultural communication within the context of creating effective healthcare teams.

L7-330 Team Dynamics in Healthcare: Concentration on the creation and utilization of interdependent teams in the healthcare environment. Topics include developing consensus, relationship building, valuing and managing diversity, critical paths, and care management to achieve quality and cost containment outcomes. Project management skills of goal setting, monitoring progress and evaluating/revising outcomes will be explored.

L7-351 Managing Information in Healthcare: An introduction to decision-making tools for healthcare professionals including clinical and financial metrics, and introductory research concepts. Focus will be on utilization of tools to address complex healthcare challenges.

L7-360 Management Skills for the Healthcare Professional: An analysis of the challenges and requirements encountered by today’s healthcare manager. Focus will be on the application of management theory and skill-building utilizing workplace scenario-based performance exercises and action research.

L7-400 Healthcare Planning and Analysis: Key concepts and ability to use basic analytical tools related to strategy, financial, economic and marketing planning in a healthcare organization. Topics include revenues, costs, supply and demand, pricing and the development of products and services to meet market needs. (Prerequisite: Healthcare Operations.)

L7-410 Healthcare Operations: Discussion will include the internal operating environment of a healthcare organization, including the impact of current healthcare regulations. Topics will include organizational relationships and communication structures between patients, healthcare providers, and administration, information systems, risk management, accreditation, and performance improvement tools and techniques. Focus will be placed on the integration of cost containment, increased access, quality outcomes, and patient satisfaction. (Prerequisite: US Healthcare System.)

L7-380 Healthcare Finance: The fundamental financial skills and concepts necessary to succeed as a manager in a healthcare organization are introduced. Analysis of the challenges encountered by healthcare financial managers will be discussed. Theory and its application to real life examples will be used in an interactive classroom format. Topics include the evolution of financial management in healthcare, resource allocation, operating revenue, profit versus non-profit agencies, financial statement analysis, accounts receivable and working capital, and future trends in healthcare financial management.

L7-440 Leadership in Healthcare: An exploration of leadership theory and practice within the healthcare environment. Issues include emerging models of effective value-centered leadership, conflicts between individual value systems, ethical standards and legal considerations, protection of rights of institutions, practitioner and patients are discussed. Scholarly paper satisfies advanced writing requirement.

L7-441 Healthcare Leadership Practicum: A capstone course in which students will develop, implement, and evaluate a project which will improve current healthcare systems. (Prerequisite: Leadership in Healthcare.)

Electives

L7-340 Complementary and Alternative Healthcare: An exploration into many modalities of alternative healthcare. The coordination and conflict with this emerging form of healthcare as it relates to traditional Western medicine will be discussed.

L7-370 Health and Wellness in the 21st Century: A survey course which explores contemporary issues and problems of wellness, health and healthcare. Individualized plans for improving one's state of wellness will be developed and implemented.

L7-371 Managing Health by Managing Stress: An introduction to the principles and theories which underlie holistic stress management and its reciprocal relationship with health and disease. On an experiential level, it is intended to increase awareness of one's personal reaction to stress and build a sense of control and mastery over the stressors in one's life.

Note: Material herein is subject to change. See catalog/schedule for prerequisites.
Lewis University Campuses

1. Lewis Main Campus
   One University Parkway
   Romeoville, IL 60446
   [Phone] (815) 836-5610

2. Chicago/De La Salle Institute
   3434 S. Michigan Avenue
   Chicago, IL 60616
   [Phone] (312) 326-1673

3. Hickory Hills Campus
   9634 S. Roberts Road
   Hickory Hills, IL 60457
   [Phone] (708) 233-9768

4. Oak Brook Campus
   2122 York Road, Suite 170
   Oak Brook, IL 60523
   [Phone] (630) 573-1740

5. Shorewood Campus
   247 Brookforest Avenue
   Shorewood, IL 60404
   [Phone] (815) 744-0504

6. Tinley Park Campus
   18501 Maple Creek Drive
   Tinley Park, IL 60477
   [Phone] (708) 444-3180

For More Information

Office of Graduate and Adult Admission
One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446-2200
(815) 836-5610, toll-free (800) 897-9000, fax (815) 836-5578
acceleratedprogram@lewisu.edu

Office Hours
M - F, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.