

The rate of ageing in Singapore is at its highest ever and with this comes an unprecedented demand for healthcare services. We have a healthcare system that delivers excellent, affordable and quality care but we will have to transform with new models of care to meet the fresh challenges that face us. Healthcare administrators play a critical role and work hand-in-hand with healthcare practitioners to deliver the care that patients need and to make our healthcare system future-ready. This new major has all the essential components to prepare a student to be an effective healthcare administrator and have a bright future in the dynamic healthcare sector.

Professor Ivy Ng
Group Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Health Services

From the emerging countries to the developed nations providing a sustainable healthcare system is a formidable challenge. There is a need for more personnel with the knowledge of Healthcare Economics and Management. This challenge is not new to Singapore although we have been praised for having a top-class healthcare system whilst spending less on healthcare than other nations. With a rapidly ageing and growing population the challenge will be greater in the years to come. Like all the other nations we have to ensure that there are adequate personnel schooled in Healthcare Economics and Management. I am pleased to see that SMU is introducing a Second Major in this area and would encourage the undergraduates to pursue this course of study.

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SECOND MAJOR IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (HEM)



School of
Economics

OVERVIEW

The second major in Health Economics and Management (HEM) is a multidisciplinary major open to all SMU students. HEM centres on the healthcare industry, one of the largest and fastest-growing industries throughout the world and particularly in Singapore, where the demand for very high standards of healthcare is extremely strong. Further, with Singapore's rapidly ageing population and rising prevalence of chronic diseases, healthcare needs are expected to continue to rise in demand and complexity. Besides healthcare practitioners such as clinicians, nurses, therapists, and medical technicians, the healthcare sector also requires healthcare administrators and managers who can work with these healthcare professionals to manage the business, administer hospitals and clinics, and provide the best analyses and decision-making behind complex operations and patient-centric processes so as to achieve a very high quality of service and innovations in cost management and risk control.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of the second major is to produce work-ready graduates who are valuable for administration and management of the healthcare sector. Through the courses offered in the second major, the students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills that are necessary for identifying and solving the challenges that the sector is facing or is going to face. The knowledge and skills are reinforced by the first-hand experience in the healthcare sector through internships and experiential learning.

This second major will open the door to meaningful career paths in the healthcare industry and is suitable for those with a passion for promoting health and well-being, delivering quality healthcare, contributing to the saving of lives, and ensuring the graceful ageing of society.

STUDENTS IN THIS MAJOR WILL

- Gain essential knowledge and skills for high-level healthcare administration, including the theories and concepts relevant to health systems and policy, the economic principles relevant to health, the management practices in the healthcare sector, and the fundamentals of data analytics in healthcare.
- Apply their knowledge and hone their 21st century skills, including problem solving, analytical skills, communication, and collaboration, through experiential learning opportunities in solving real healthcare industry problems.

- Develop practical first-hand understanding of the healthcare environment through internship, as well as an optional work-study programme within a hospital or healthcare establishment.

STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM

HEM CORE COURSES

1. Introductory Data Analytics in Healthcare
2. Health Economics
3. Health Systems and Policy
4. Healthcare Management

HEM ELECTIVE COURSES (CHOOSE 4)

- Economics of Ageing
- Financial Accounting for Healthcare
- Health Law and Medical Ethics
- Health Psychology
- Applied Analytics in Healthcare Management
- Medical Sociology
- Operations and Supply Chain Management in Healthcare
- Smart Healthcare in Asia

