Strengthening our Connection

Updates for MSHSA

Celebrating 10 Years of MSHSA

In 2016, the University of Wyoming Master of Science in Health Services Administration program welcomed its first students. Ten years later, the MSHSA community has grown to include more than 400 graduates representing 43 states, Washington, DC, and Canada.

Over the past decade, our students and alumni have brought experiences from across healthcare and beyond into the MSHSA classroom. They have used their education to strengthen their current roles, pursue new career opportunities, take on leadership responsibilities, and continue their educational journeys.

Throughout that growth, the program has remained focused on providing relevant, practical education that prepares professionals to navigate an increasingly complex healthcare environment. Our faculty continue to bring current issues and expertise into the classroom, while our students and alumni help shape the program through their experiences, perspectives, and accomplishments.

As we celebrate 10 years of MSHSA alongside the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy's 80th anniversary, we want to hear from the people who have been part of our story. Alumni and students are invited to share updates, memories, career milestones, and reflections as we celebrate where we've been—and look ahead to what's next.

Connect With Us

Follow MSHSA and help us grow our online community:

Facebook — @WyomingMastersHealthServices
Instagram — @uwyo_mshsa
LinkedIn — @uwmshsa

Interested in being featured? Let us know—we would enjoy highlighting more of our students and alumni!

Newsletter Highlights

10 Years of MSHSA

A Message from the Director

Fall 2026 Seminar

Note from Advisory Board Chair

Belfast, Ireland

University of Wyoming

M.S. in Health Services Administration

MSHSA@uwyo.edu

A Message from the Director



Elliott Sogol,
Director,
Postgraduate and
Continuing Education

As the MSHSA program celebrates its tenth anniversary, we are proud to reflect on the journey that brought us here and excited to look ahead to the future.

At the heart of our program are our students. From our inaugural cohort admitted in 2016 to our newest group in 2026, students have shaped the identity, strength, and success of the MSHSA program. Their diverse professional backgrounds — including pharmacy, nursing, medicine, allied health, business, social work, and many others — enrich the learning environment and broaden the perspectives shared in every course and seminar. Through their experiences and insights, our students help deepen our collective understanding of the complexity, breadth, and evolving nature of healthcare.

A defining strength of the MSHSA program is its practical, real-world focus. Students choose our program because of the relevance of the information we provide, our sincere commitment to helping them advance, the dedication of our faculty, and our emphasis on everyday application. Our goal is to ensure that students gain knowledge and skills they can use immediately in their current roles while also preparing them to pursue new and more challenging opportunities throughout their careers. Together, our students and faculty bring diversity, dedication, and a shared commitment to lifelong learning.

Our Alumni Advisory Board has also played an essential role in the continued growth and direction of the program. By providing real-world insights and timely feedback, board members help ensure that our curriculum remains responsive to the changing needs of healthcare organizations and the professionals who lead them. Their guidance has been invaluable as we consider program updates, emerging trends, and future priorities.

As Donovan notes in his remarks, the MSHSA program is committed to helping individuals grow both educationally and personally. Through courses and seminars that encourage collaboration, case-based learning, and meaningful interaction among students from different backgrounds, we strive to create a rich and engaging learning environment that prepares graduates to make a positive impact in healthcare.

As we celebrate this important milestone, we extend our sincere thanks to our students, alumni, faculty, and staff for their continued support, dedication, and commitment to the MSHSA program. Their contributions have shaped our first ten years and will continue to guide us as we move forward.

Fall 2026 Seminar: Leadership in Action

MSHSA students came together in Laramie October 10–11 for the Fall 2026 seminar, an intensive weekend focused on leadership, self-awareness, and applying new skills to real-world healthcare challenges.

Guest presenter Alan Spies led students through the 5 Voices framework, helping them better understand their individual leadership and communication styles and how different voices contribute to effective teams.

Students then put their leadership and critical-thinking skills into practice through a case study centered on a Rural Health Expansion Initiative. Working in teams, students used artificial intelligence as a tool to evaluate the initiative, consider key opportunities and challenges, and develop recommendations. Each team concluded the exercise by delivering a 10-minute pitch to an executive team—challenging students to turn their analysis into a clear, strategic recommendation.

The weekend also provided an important opportunity for students to connect face-to-face with classmates and faculty.







"I truly enjoyed the seminar. I learn something every time we have one. It is helpful to me to understand myself and my leadership capabilities. It is always nice to meet other students in person and put faces to names."
— Tracey Causey, anticipated Spring 2027 graduate

Looking Ahead

Our next MSHSA seminar is scheduled for March 6–7, 2027, with the final exam on March 5.
A new special topic is currently being explored for the spring seminar.



Megan Hosking | MSHSA Class of 2021
Office Manager, Community Action Partnership of Natrona County & Healthcare for the Homeless | Wyoming

Alumni Spotlight: Megan Hosking

For MSHSA alumna Megan Hosking, completing the program was an important step in a professional journey that has continued to grow.

Since graduating in 2021, Megan has taken on increasing responsibilities in healthcare and community health, including work in operations, leadership, compliance, and patient access. Her MSHSA experience also gave her the confidence to continue her education, and she has since earned a Doctorate in Healthcare Administration from Oklahoma State University.

“Completing my Master of Health Services Administration at the University of Wyoming has hada tremendous impact on my career and professional growth. The program gave me the knowledge, confidence, and foundation I needed to pursue opportunities in healthcare leadership and administration.”

Today, Megan continues to put that education into practice while serving her community.

“My journey has shown me that education can open doors you may not even realize are possible when you first begin. I am incredibly proud to be a University of Wyoming alumna and grateful for the role the MSHSA program has played in getting me where I am today.”

Celebrating Our Graduates

Graduation is always a special milestone for the MSHSA program and an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our students.

This spring, MSHSA graduates joined fellow School of Pharmacy graduates for the annual Convocation celebration. As part of the ceremony, graduates were recognized on stage and presented with their MSHSA specialty stoles by Director Elliott Sogol.



We also extend a special thank you to Donovan and Rachel Downey, who generously gifted MSHSA sweatshirts to our Spring 2026 graduates. Their thoughtful gift was a wonderful addition to the celebration and a meaningful way to welcome our newest graduates into the MSHSA alumni community.

Planning to Graduate?
Whether you're finishing this winter, next spring, or planning farther ahead, there are a few important steps to keep on your radar.

Upcoming celebrations

- Winter 2026 UW Commencement — December 19
- Spring 2027 School of Pharmacy Convocation — May 14 at 4 p.m. MT
- Spring 2027 UW Commencement — May 15

Students nearing completion should Apply to Graduate through WyoRecords so the Registrar can complete a final degree review and issue the diploma after all requirements are successfully completed. We recommend completing this step one to two months before finishing your degree. Be sure to review your Degree Evaluation and confirm that your intended MSHSA specialty track is listed correctly. Contact the MSHSA team if an update is needed.

Students who would like to participate in UW Commencement must register separately and order their cap and gown through the University Store. MSHSA graduates should select the Master's Hood – Health Sciences – Green.

Graduates are welcome to participate in Commencement or the School of Pharmacy Convocation even if the ceremony does not immediately follow the semester in which they complete their degree. The School of Pharmacy Convocation is held each spring and provides a special opportunity to celebrate alongside the MSHSA community.

See official UW Commencement information: https://www.uwyo.edu/commencement/index.html

Attention Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 Grads

If you plan to graduate this academic year, please connect with Jen, jpaintin@uwyo.edu. Ths will help our team prepare for all graduates and insure we communicate with you for any next steps.



Photos:

Do you have graduationor convocation photos you are willing share with the MSHSA team? We are looking to compile photos of our graduates. Note these may be shared on social media, UW website, and other promotinal resources.
Send to MSHSA@uwyo.edu



MSHSA Advisory Board Update

The MSHSA Student/Alumni Advisory Board continues to provide valuable perspective as the program explores opportunities for growth, recruitment, student and alumni engagement, and continued program development.

March 12, 2026
The board explored ways members could become more involved beyond regular meetings, including opportunities to support recruitment, mentor students, and serve as guest speakers. Members also provided feedback on recruitment and marketing efforts and the MSHSA website redesign, while discussing ways to strengthen alumni engagement. Additional conversations focused on workforce needs, partnership development, and opportunities to connect students from across the University of Wyoming who share an interest in healthcare leadership.

August 26, 2026
The summer meeting focused on strengthening enrollment and creating more personal connections with prospective students. Members discussed ways alumni, current students, and board members could share their experiences with prospective students and help demonstrate the variety of professional backgrounds and career paths represented within the MSHSA community. The board also discussed increasing student representation, expanding recruitment through members' professional networks, and supporting the program's 10-year anniversary.

Welcoming New Board Members

The Advisory Board continued to grow in 2026. Cathy Baker and Heidi Hoffman joined the board in spring 2026, followed by Shawn Hegner in fall 2026. We are grateful for the perspectives and experience they bring to the board and appreciate their willingness to support the continued growth of the MSHSA program.

They join fellow board members Joe Wright, Holly Eastridge, Tiffany Scott, Payton Gambill, Jill Goldstein, Donovan Downey, and Kelli Perrotti.

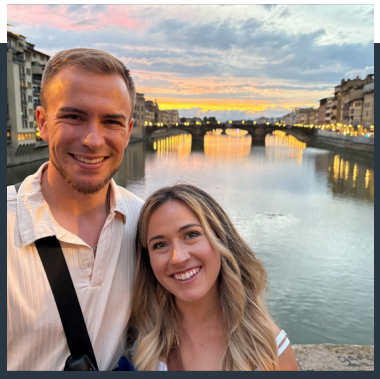


Cathy Baker
MSHSA Class of 2018

Looking Ahead

As the Advisory Board approaches its second anniversary, the program continues to explore ways members can have an even greater impact while maintaining a manageable time commitment. Future opportunities may include greater involvement in recruitment, mentoring, student engagement, alumni outreach, and sharing professional expertise with the MSHSA community.

We appreciate all of our Advisory Board members for sharing their time, experience, and perspectives as we continue to strengthen the MSHSA program.



Donovan Downey
MSHSA, sHRBP
Chair
MSHSA Advisory Board

A Note from Advisory Board Chair

Across my career leading compensation, HR systems, and people analytics for organizations like the Veterans' Health Administration and a 100,000+ employee academic health system, I've seen one thing hold true: the strongest organizations are led by people who never stop investing in their own growth.
That's the spirit behind this program.

Many of you are already leading — managing teams, driving decisions, shaping outcomes. The MHSA program at the University of Wyoming was built to help you go further, without asking you to step away from the work you're already doing. Its flexibility means you can build the strategic foundation for your next role while continuing to lead in your current one.

Healthcare needs leaders who can think strategically and act decisively. If you're considering this program, or know someone who should be, I'd encourage you to take the step. The opportunity — and the return on it — is real.

I'm proud to chair this advisory board, and I look forward to welcoming the next class of leaders who choose to grow with us!

Northern Ireland 2027

MSHSA is preparing for another international learning opportunity in summer 2027, with a return to Belfast, Northern Ireland, tentatively scheduled for June 20–26.

The experience will explore healthcare within a diverse population and examine how Northern Ireland's history of conflict continues to influence communities and healthcare. Students will have opportunities to learn beyond the classroom through conversations with healthcare organizations, community and consumer groups, government representatives, and others who can provide firsthand perspectives on the region and its healthcare system.

The experience is designed to encourage students to consider healthcare through a broader lens—examining how history, culture, community, and healthcare systems intersect and influence the health of a population.

More information about the Summer 2027 experience, including course and travel details, will be shared as plans are finalized.



MSHSA on the Road

MSHSA has been on the move in 2026! From national conferences to events across Wyoming, we have enjoyed opportunities to connect with healthcare professionals, students, alumni, and prospective students while sharing how MSHSA can support the next step in their careers.

March | APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition — Los Angeles
Connecting with pharmacists and pharmacy professionals from across the country and sharing opportunities to expand their careers through healthcare leadership and administration.

May | USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium — Cleveland
Meeting healthcare professionals from across the U.S. Public Health Service and highlighting the flexibility of MSHSA for working professionals.

September | Wyoming Hospital Association — Cheyenne
Connecting with healthcare professionals and organizations from across Wyoming and discussing opportunities for continued leadership and professional development.

September | UW Pharmacy Fair — Laramie
Meeting pharmacy students and future pharmacists while highlighting how an MSHSA degree can complement their healthcare education and expand future career possibilities.

October | UW Health Professions Fair — Laramie
Introducing students from a variety of academic and healthcare interests to MSHSA and the many career paths available within healthcare leadership and administration.

November | Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar — Washington, DC
We will wrap up our 2026 travels by connecting with federal pharmacy professionals and sharing how MSHSA can help healthcare professionals advance their careers and expand their impact.

From Los Angeles to Washington, DC—and throughout Wyoming—we appreciate every opportunity to build new connections and introduce more people to the MSHSA community.