

Health Quality MSc(HQ) Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR MSc(HQ) STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTH QUALITY?

This two year, part-time, interdisciplinary course-based program consists of seven (7) core courses and a supervised project leading to a Master of Science in Health Quality (MScHQ) degree that will prepare you for practice, research, and education in the developing area of Health Quality, Risk and Safety. Ensuring patient safety and minimizing risk are crucial concerns of those working in healthcare related fields. The MScHQ provides professionals with the knowledge and tools to research, advocate, and implement strategies for risk reduction and quality improvement within the healthcare system.

Why QUEEN'S?

The Master of Science in Health Quality (MScHQ) at Queen's is the first online program of its kind in Canada, specializing in linking theory and practice in quality, risk, and safety in healthcare. We offer interdisciplinary courses, led by leaders in their fields, convenient distance learning and valuable international exposure. Unparalleled in its scope, the Master of Science in Health Quality is the only program in Canada to address the growing need for interactions across disciplines, professions and communities. Join us on the forefront of improving health quality, risk, and safety in Canada and worldwide.

Program STRUCTURE

MScHQ (2 years, part-time study): Online, course-based with two (2) on campus sessions in September and July of your first year, seven (7) required courses and a supervised project.

Part-Time STUDIES

The Master of Science in Health Quality degree program will be delivered on a part-time basis over two years by an interdisciplinary team from the Faculties of Health Science, Law, and Smith Engineering as well as the Smith School of Business and Policy Studies at Queen's University. The interdisciplinary team of



experts in the areas of quality, risk, and safety will provide learners with a unique opportunity to link theoretical foundations with practical application.

Our program is designed for working professionals who would like to pursue a graduate degree. The majority of courses are delivered through interactive online classes and independent learning, but students will be expected to attend two, one-week intensive on campus sessions in July/August of your first and second year of the program. Students will be expected to carry between 1-2 courses at a time.

Required COURSES

- HQRS 840 - Introduction to Quality, Risk and Safety (in Kingston)
- HQRS 841 - Process Improvement in Healthcare
- HQRS 844 - Law, Risk and Healthcare
- HQRS 847 - International Perspectives on Policy, Economics, and Quality Healthcare
- HQRS 846 - Human Factors in Healthcare (in Kingston)
- HQRS 845 - Organizational Behaviour in Healthcare
- HQRS 842 - Research and Evaluation Methods to Assess Quality, Risk & Safety
- HQRS 898 - Project in Health Quality (Final project)
- HQRS 897 - Individual Project in Health Quality

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Study where you work and live
- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about health quality from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Spend time with a cohort of peers during your two (2), one-week intensive courses at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada
- Experience team-based learning with other students
- Network with students, alumni, and leaders in this emerging field
- Complete a supervised project on a topic of your choice



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Health Quality MSc(HQ) Map

MASTER OF SCIENCE (HEALTH QUALITY) MSc(HQ)



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like getting set up in online courses.
- Attend the first intensive in-person session.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development professional development workshops, the Graduate Coordinator, and the SGSPA website.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and work on your major project (898).
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.

- Finish up your required courses and research project.

MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research project.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Health Quality Research Forum.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.

- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Health Quality Transformation.
- Publish your research project in a relevant journal.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Monitor the online student community and other healthcare quality communities such as Health Quality Ontario and IDEAS for job postings or skill development workshops.
- Check out professional development workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development.

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SG5902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Contact the MScHQ Program through e-mail, social media, and/or HQ Connects Facebook group for contacts and career opportunities.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Follow #QueensHQ on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. Join the HQ Connects Facebook group to connect with current students and alumni.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like Health Sciences Association.

BUILD YOUR CAREER

- Considering a career change? Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Monitor the online student community and program social media for job postings or opportunities.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD or applying to medical school check out the program requirements so you can have a good head start. For more information about a PhD in Health Quality, visit the HQ Programs website.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan (if applicable).

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Health Quality can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion
- Interprofessional Education foundations

Career Possibilities

The Master of Science in Health Quality program is designed for young professionals or mid- to senior-level executives who wish to continue to work full time, while pursuing an advanced degree. Professionals that may be well suited to taking the Master of Health Quality are:

- Business professionals
- Engineers
- Healthcare administrators
- Healthcare Information
- Healthcare professionals
- Lawyers
- Policy advisors
- QI leader/QI focus to your profession
- Technologists (IT)

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources - our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGSPA website for available resources.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Grade requirements: Graduated from an accredited, baccalaureate-granting university with a minimum of a second class standing of a B or 73% (GPA 3.0).
- Received a preferred degree in a healthcare discipline, law, business, engineering, or policy studies.
- Have an undergraduate course in statistics and evidence of an understanding of research methodology and/or quality improvement experience.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A statement of interest in the program is required to match the applicant's academic and work experience with the objectives of the program.
- Current curriculum vitae.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application deadline: February 1.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process and the HQ Programs Website.

What about FEES?

For more information on MSChQ fees and tuition, please visit the program website.

*Please note that tuition and fees are subject to changes from the Queen's University Board of Trustees. Visit the Office of the University Registrar for more information on program fees.



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