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 Healthcare 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 Healthcare 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 Healthcare 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) 1-week in-person intensive courses; seven (7) required courses and a supervised project.

Part-Time STUDIES

The Master of Science in Healthcare 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 Engineering as well as the Schools 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 Healthcare Quality (Final project)

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Study where you work and live
- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about healthcare 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
**Healthcare Quality**

**MSc Map**

**GETTING STARTED**

- 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 Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the Graduate Coordinator and the SGS website.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and work on your major project (898).
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- 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.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for 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.
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- 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*.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through HQ Connects Facebook group for contacts and career opportunities.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Network 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*.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Finish up your required courses and research project.
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- 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*.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- 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*.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

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

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

The Master of Science in Healthcare 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:

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

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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.*

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 SGS professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) 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 SGS website for available resources.