Master of Hospitality Administration (MHA)

Graduate Student Handbook
# Table of Contents

Welcome  
From the Dean 3  
From Your Advisor 4  

Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Goals  
William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Administration 5  
Graduate Studies Office 5  

Purpose 6  
Graduate Faculty 6  

Program Information 6  
Master of Hospitality Administration 6  
Contact Information 6  

Program Requirements 6  
Advisory Committee Guidelines 6  
Degree Program Benchmarks 7  
Entrepreneurship Class Option 7  
Professional Paper Option 7  
Program Timeline 7  
Professional Code of Ethics 7  
Annual Review Procedures 7  
Additional Program Information 7  
Internship 7  
Independent Study 8  

Discipline Resources 8  
Style Guide 8  
Relevant Journals 8  
Conferences 8  
Organizations/Associations 8  

Harrah Hospitality College Resources 9  
Graduate Studies Office 9  
Bob Boughner Career Service Center 9  
Dedicated Research Librarian 9  

University Resources 9  
University Policies and Procedures 11  
Handbook Information 12
Master of Hospitality Administration (MHA)

Welcome

From the Dean
It is my pleasure to welcome you as you embark on graduate studies in the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Administration. As you begin, I hope you will reflect on your learning goals and make a commitment to your studies. It is here in graduate school that you will really begin to hone your knowledge of the hospitality industry. In graduate school learning is active; this means you need to ask questions, become involved with fellow students, and work with faculty on research.

Research will take you to new levels of understanding. Your educators will challenge you in new ways. Your peers will provide you with feedback, support, and opportunities for shared learning experiences.

In the Harrah College, we have incredible resources. Lateka Grays, is our dedicated librarian, who can help you with your research. We have a career center that can pair you with a mentor or help you find a job. Dr. Barnes runs the career center.

We have the Graduate Studies Office, where you can find the administrative support you need to move through the program in a timely manner.

In addition, we have many student organizations, including the Hospitality Graduate Student Association. These clubs often host events for networking and learning. You can find information on different clubs from Gael Hancock in the Graduate Studies Office.

I hope you enjoy your time at UNLV. If I can be of any assistance, please do stop by and say hello.

Stowe Shoemaker, PhD
Dean, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Administration
Michael D. Rose Distinguished Chair
Lincy Professor
From Your Advisor

Welcome to the Master’s of Hospitality Administration degree program! This degree can give you a competitive advantage in the hospitality industry. It is tailored to meet the needs of working professionals. It also provides skills for a career in hospitality education if that is your goal.

Like you, I received my master’s degree via a distance program while also working full time in a management role. While the program structure was slightly different I understand what you deal with being a remote student while working full time as you try and progress your career. You have taken on a big endeavor that you will be proud of accomplishing when complete. Due to the graduate level work and the 8-week class sessions, please plan on committing 15-20 hours per week for each class. Some classes may take less or more depending on your strengths or weaknesses in a subject but this time commitment is required for accreditation and to adequately learn graduate subject matter.

As your advisor, I will help you navigate the program to successful completion. You should meet with me prior to your first semester to map out a plan of study for your graduate program. After that, you should schedule phone meetings each semester to ensure regular progress. I can help you decide what electives to take and in what sequence you should complete your required classes. If you were admitted provisionally, I will work with you to ensure that you meet the conditions of your admission.

Midway through the program you will have to decide whether to write a professional paper or take the entrepreneurship class as a culminating experience. I can help you select the option that is best for you and will provide suggestions for faculty members in your area of interest to serve as your paper chair should you choose to do a professional paper. You can schedule a phone appointment by contacting me at toni.repetti@unlv.edu. You can also reach me via phone at 702-895-4408 although email will usually provide for a quicker response.

I look forward to getting to know you, following your progress through the program, and cheering you on when you walk across the stage at graduation to receive your Master of Hospitality Administration Degree.

Toni Repetti, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Master of Hospitality Administration Director
toni.repetti@unlv.edu
Vision, Mission, Core Values and Goals – William F. Harrah College of Hospitality

Vision
Our vision is to pioneer the advancement of global hospitality through innovative education, research, and service.

Mission
To fulfill our vision and achieve our top initiatives, our mission is to:

- Deliver resources and experiences that empower student, educator, and alumni success
- Engage in cutting-edge research that advances knowledge and moves industry forward
- Ensure our curriculum is responsive to the ever-changing needs of our constituents
- Be the model of exceptional service to our college, university, and community

Core Values
We will lead with our core values of being inclusive, driven, empowering, and adaptive.

Goals
Goal 1: Help students learn and grow through rigorous academics, relevant professional experiences and engaging social interactions.

Goal 2: Support and enhance faculty development, collaboration and performance.

Goal 3: Significantly increase resources to support and reward research, teaching and service.

Goal 4: Develop strong relationships and improve communications with the alumni, industry, stakeholders and community.

Goal 5: Enhance and expand facilities, resources and amenities to maintain a highly professional learning environment.

Goal 6: Establish a strong and sustainable financial structure to ensure stability and long-term success.

Goal 7: Improve the organizational and operational effectiveness of the College.

Vision and Mission – Harrah Hospitality College Graduate Studies Office

Vision
Within a welcoming, caring and concerned atmosphere to provide continuous support to graduate students, faculty members, staff members and others in the Harrah Hospitality College and UNLV as a whole through communication, promotion of collegiality, providing accurate information, and follow-through on requests.

Mission
Graduate Student Success
Purpose
The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or GradAssociateDean@unlv.edu.

Graduate Faculty
A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. For up-to-date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information
Executive Master of Hospitality Administration
MHA
Subplan 1: Hospitality Management
Subplan 2: Gaming Management

The Master’s of Hospitality Administration (MHA) degree is a 30-credit program designed to bring hospitality executives together to learn the latest management and leadership techniques in an executive format, via the Internet and other media. Demand determines the class schedule for the program. Students must choose one of two subplans: 1) Hospitality Management, and 2) Gaming Management. Students must specify the program option as part of the admission process.

Contact Information
https://www.unlv.edu/degree/mha-hospitality-administration

Graduate Coordinator
Toni Repetti, Ph.D.
Office: HAB 249
Phone: 702-894-4408
Email: toni.repetti@unlv.edu

Graduate Studies Office
Valarie Calbert, Administrative Assistant
Office: HAB 361
Phone: 702-895-3321
Fax: 702-895-2713
Email: valarie.calbert@unlv.edu

Program Requirements
Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.

Advisory Committee Guidelines
For students choosing the professional paper culminating experience, they are required to have a paper chair. The chair must have UNLV graduate faculty status.
**Degree Program Benchmarks**

**Entrepreneurship Class Option**

According to the UNLV Graduate Catalog, MHA 787 Entrepreneurship for the Hospitality Industry includes “comprehensive coverage of various tools, documents, and subject materials utilized to start and maintain a small hospitality business. It includes entrepreneurial perspectives, challenges, characteristics, self-assessment; starting a new venture; developing business idea and business/marketing/financial organizational plans; and financing and managing the new venture. Other issues include legal, franchising, and international entrepreneurship.” Students in this class will be able to develop the information required to assess the viability of a hospitality enterprise.

**Professional Paper Option**

Students in the Gaming subplan are required to complete the Professional Paper option while those under the Hospitality subplan may choose to do either a professional paper or take the Entrepreneurship class as a culminating experience. A student doing a professional paper is not required to have a full committee, but must have a chairperson who can provide guidance on the chosen topic based on his/her areas of expertise. The professional paper chairperson must be a graduate faculty member.

Prior to being allowed to register for MHA 788 Professional Paper, a student must have a chairperson, and have completed the college’s **Professional Paper Form** that includes the chair’s name and signature and the title and description of the topic of the professional paper.

The professional paper is usually undertaken the final semester of the student’s academic career. The Professional Paper Form should be completed at the end of the preceding semester.

To access all of the basic forms required for completing a thesis or professional paper, please visit the **Graduate Forms** page on the Harrah Hospitality College website.

**Program Timeline**

Students in the Master’s of Hospitality Administration program, taking two courses a semester can expect to complete the degree in two years. Working with one’s graduate advisor will help ensure a timely graduation.

**Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines**

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog.

**Annual Review Procedures**

Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey will be sent by the Graduate College to the student’s Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

**Additional Program Information**

**Internship**

Students may elect to use an elective to take an internship class. The student is responsible for finding the company that will employ them (either paid or unpaid), finding a faculty member who can help mentor them through the process, and making scheduled reports on progress throughout the semester. Students must complete a form and obtain the proper signatures before being given permission to register for the Internship class. This form must be turned in to the Graduate Studies Office.
Independent Study
Students may elect to use an elective to take an independent study. This class is completed through one-on-one work with a faculty member and usually focuses on a research topic of interest to both the professor and the student. Students must complete a form and obtain the proper signatures before being given permission to register for the Independent Study class. This form must be turned into the Graduate Studies Office.

Discipline Resources

Style Guide
At the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Administration, students and faculty members use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, affectionately referred to as the APA Style Guide. This guide dictates the overall format for content, citations and reference list, placement and titling of charts and figures, etc. All research papers are required to use the most recent publication of this guide.

Relevant Journals
Research is an important factor in a student’s graduate studies. There are many academic journals pertinent to the hospitality industry. The journals considered to be of highest value in the Harrah Hospitality College are as follows:

- *Annals of Tourism Research*
- *Cornell Quarterly*
- *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*
- *International Journal of Hospitality Management*
- *International Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research*
- *Journal of Travel Research*
- *Tourism Management*

Conferences
There are many conferences throughout the world that focus on hospitality and tourism. Faculty members and students attend conferences specific to their areas of study, but there are three that are most important in the Harrah Hospitality College:

- The annual summer conference of the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) is usually held in July of each year. In addition, this organization hosts an Asia Pacific CHRIE and a Euro-CHRIE conference.
- Regional CHRIE organizations host smaller conferences throughout the year. Harrah Hospitality College faculty members and students participate in the West Federation Conference usually held in February.
- The main focus for students in the college is the annual Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism, held the second week in January. This is an excellent opportunity for students to present their research with either stand-up presentations or in poster sessions. Travel to this conference is provided for master’s level students on a case-by-case basis.

Organizations/Associations
The hospitality industry has many different subindustries, and there is a professional organization (or two) for each of those individual sectors. Students are encouraged to become familiar with and join the association(s) that are closely related to their areas of interest. Many of these organizations have special membership fees for students and this is a good opportunity to become involved. A list of many of the industry organizations is on the Harrah Hospitality College website.

On campus, there are several student organizations – many related to the national/international industry associations. The list of student organizations is also on the website.
One student organization particular to hospitality graduate students is the Hospitality Graduate Student Association (HGSA). All graduate students in the college are members. Activities, opportunities to travel to targeted conferences, and company tours are planned throughout the year by an active board.

**Harrah Hospitality College Resources**

**Graduate Studies Office**
Open Monday through Friday
8 a.m to 5 p.m.
Hospitality Hall (HAB), Room 361
Phone: 702-895-3321 FAX: 702-895-2713
Email: hotelgrad@unlv.edu

Dedicated to “Graduate Student Success,” the Graduate Studies office provides support to all students as they move through their academic careers. Services include but are not limited to the following:

- Admissions
- Forms Management (creating copies of required program forms, filing copies in student folders, delivering forms to Graduate College)
- Admittance of Graduate Assistants

**Bob Boughner Career Service Center**
Open Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hospitality Hall (HAB), Room 128
Phone: 702-895-5554
Email: boughnercareerservices@unlv.edu

Working in tandem with UNLV Career Services, the Bob Boughner Career Services Center provides opportunities for Harrah Hospitality College students and alumni to gain access to a broad range of employers, employment information, and opportunities.

Student Services:

- Job Announcements
- Management Training Programs
- CareerShift
- CareerLink
- Hospitality College Student Listserv
- Career Counseling
- Resume Review
- Cover Letter Review
- Mentor Program
- Career Mixer

**Dedicated Research Librarian**
Lateka Grays
Lied Library
Subjects: Hospitality, Food & Beverage, Gaming, Hotel Administration, Recreation & Sport Management, Tourism & Convention Administration, Careers
Phone: 702-895-2137 FAX: 702-895-2284
Email: lateka.grays@unlv.edu

**University Resources**

**Academic Success Center**
The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their
studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association
With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office
Located in the UNLV Registrar’s Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives
The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars
International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women’s Center
The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women’s Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries
UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen.
The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct
The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services
The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center
This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures
Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
- Change of Address
- FERPA/Privacy Rights
- Health Insurance - Mandatory
- Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
- Proof of Immunization
- Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
- Rebelmail Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Computer Use Policy
- Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
• Admission and Registration Information
• Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*

**Handbook Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last revised</th>
<th>Revised by</th>
<th>Changes summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 24, 2018</td>
<td>Toni Repetti</td>
<td>Update for new subplan, college name, &amp; contacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>