

Graduate School Application Statement of Purpose: MSHCA-AP at CSU Long Beach

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Author Note

This is a brief statement to accompany my application to CSULB's Master of Science in Health Care Administration (MSHCA) Accelerated Program for admission in the Fall of 2026. In this letter, I will convey reasons and fit for applying for graduate school along with evidence of my commitment to continuing my education.

Statement of Purpose
M.S. in Health Care Administration, CSU Long Beach

Aoife M. Cullen

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After seven years of clinical experience in Kaiser Permanente and many more as a patient, I have had the opportunity to gain an understanding of the operations of a large health care organization. Working directly with patients in an allied health role has given me insight to barriers and inefficiencies, as well as the factors that perpetuate them. Motivated by these observations and a desire to advance in the healthcare field, I decided to return to school two years ago to finish my Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health. Public Health was a good fit for my undergraduate education because it lies at the intersection of two of my longtime academic interests: health science and social justice.

By the end of this program, I had developed a deeper sense of my professional vision. I want to pursue administration and leadership positions in large health care organizations to make health care delivery more equitable, accessible, and efficient. While thinking about my next steps after graduation, I concluded that my goals would require an advanced degree to move forward into those roles.

Initially I researched Master of Public Health programs as the logical next step in continuing my education. While interning this summer with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, my supervisor recommended that I also consider Master of Healthcare Administration programs. As I looked into the offerings of different programs across the U.S., CSULB stood out to me for its emphasis on developing skills in students who already have professional experience. I am particularly impressed that the accelerated MSHCA program models itself around the ACHE leadership competencies. It is a long-term professional goal of mine to achieve a FACHE certification, so I believe that completing a program that reflects those priorities will be foundational to my future career pathway.

Courses I have taken as a public health undergraduate that have prepared me for the MSHCA program include Health Team Building, Introduction to Health Policy, Non-Profit Leadership & Management, Health Communications, and Health Care Organization and Administration. My written work has covered research into health issues impacting marginalized populations, policy analyses, and applying public health theory and frameworks to proposed interventions. As I progress towards a career in health care, I commit to staying grounded in these principles of community health and social justice. Completing the MSHCA program and gaining competencies in communications and relationship management, leadership, professionalism, familiarity with the healthcare environment, and business skills will enable me to strategically lead health teams from ideas to actions.