OVERVIEW

Health informatics professionals work at the intersection of patient care, health administration, and information and communication systems to enable and support the delivery of safe, efficient and effective health care services. The Master of Science in health informatics is a professional degree program designed to prepare individuals for emerging health informatics careers. As an applied program, practice is emphasized more than research. Students gain professional skills such as writing, leadership and communication, as well as practical skills including project management, clinical decision support, database management and applied research.

The health informatics master's degree requires 30 credit hours. Most courses are offered in the evening and some courses are available online. For individuals with an existing health care, technical or administrative background, the course schedule is tailored to strengthen knowledge and skills and round out the student's expertise. Individuals who are continuing their education immediately after receiving a baccalaureate degree will likely follow a course schedule that includes all of the required courses listed below. The program may be pursued on a full- or part-time basis and may be completed over four semesters (fall-spring-summer-fall), but must be completed within five years.

Required Courses:
• Introduction to Health Informatics
• Clinical Decision Support*
• Strategic Leadership in Health Informatics
• Resource Management*
• Regulations and Standards in Health Informatics*
• Database Management
• Project Management
• Information Security*
• Applied Project I
• Applied Project II

Elective Courses:
• U.S. Health Care Delivery Systems
• Medical Vocabularies and Classification Systems*
• Programming and Problem Solving
• Informatics Foundation
• Systems Analysis and Design
• Knowledge Management

*Online course (asynchronous)

Note 1: Students are expected to have a foundation in medical terminology.

Note 2: With the approval of the program director, elective courses may be substituted for a required course.
The health informatics program is housed in the department of health sciences and informatics. The department maintains a low faculty-to-student ratio and all students are assigned a faculty member for on-going mentoring. The faculty shares the Jesuit mission of educating "the whole person" – mind, body, heart and spirit — and believe the more whole you are, the more you can contribute to the world. The goal of the department is to help all students reach their personal, academic and professional potential.

The health informatics program maintains a strong relationship with the health care industry through its advisory board, adjunct faculty, student alumni and a growing professional practice network. In addition, faculty members and students are active in professional associations at the national, state and regional levels, including the American Medical Informatics Association, American Health Information Management Association, American Telemedicine Association and Health Information Management Systems Society.

As a multidisciplinary program, the strengths and shared resources of the University are leveraged to offer a broad array of courses. In addition to the courses offered by full-time and adjunct faculty in the department, students are able to take advantage of approved courses offered through collaborating centers, schools and colleges.

Faculty:
- Amy Harkins, Ph.D.: Department Chair
- Julie Howe, MBA, D-ABMDI
- Teresa T. Neal, M.H.A., RHIA
- Deborah E. Seale, M.A., Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty:
- Dana McWay, J.D., RHIA
- Kadi J. Montez, M.H.A., M.S., PT, PMP
- Jody Smith, Ph.D., RHIA, FAHIMA

Staff:
- Andrea Flynn: Administrative Secretary

Collaborating Centers, Colleges and Schools:
- Center for Outcomes Research
- College for Public Health and Social Justice
- School for Professional Studies
- John Cook School of Business

Upon graduation, students are prepared to meet the demands of a highly complex and rapidly changing health care environment. Graduates with five to 10 years of work experience are prepared to enter senior and executive level health informatics roles. Opportunities are available in a variety of health care settings, including hospitals and clinics, pharmaceutical companies and research organizations.

Information concerning financial aid and scholarships can be obtained from the student financial services website: finaid.slu.edu.