Health Informatics MS

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Learn more about the Master of Science in Health Informatics.

About the Program

Health Informatics is the intersection of healthcare, information science and computer science. The MS in Health Informatics (MSHI) is an innovative, interdisciplinary, applied graduate degree program that addresses the intersection of healthcare and information technology to develop efficient systems, processes and uses of health data across the continuum of healthcare delivery to improve patient care and advance individual and population health outcomes. The MSHI is focused on the resources, devices and methods to optimize healthcare delivery. The program helps students develop the competencies and acquire the practical tools to succeed in today’s digital healthcare environment. Current students include physicians, nurses, therapists, data analysts, and information technology and allied health professionals. The degree is also well suited for individuals with no prior healthcare or information technology experience.

The MSHI is available in both in-person and online formats that are designed for professionals and individuals located both within and outside the metropolitan Philadelphia region or who travel extensively for professional reasons. Course formats include in-person and hybrid courses for the in-person format, and a mix of asynchronous and synchronous courses with online synchronous sessions meeting via online conferencing and face-to-face tools for the online format. The program is offered across traditional semesters as well as two seven-week terms (six weeks in two summer sessions). For seven-week terms, students enroll in one course per six- or seven-week term and complete two courses in the length of a traditional semester.

For those interested in studying health informatics who cannot commit to pursuing a master's degree, a graduate certificate in Health Informatics that runs for a shorter course of seven-week terms is also offered by the College of Public Health. Coursework completed for the certificate may later be applied to the MSHI.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 5 years

Campus Location: Main and Online

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: The degree program is interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on inquiry, insight and innovation. The program builds an awareness of both clinical and technical challenges in the field.

Accreditation: The curriculum meets the curricular requirements of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM®), which is the accrediting body of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA®).

Areas of Specialization: For the MSHI program, students choose between two tracks:

1. The Project Track requires completion of HIM 5114 and HIM 9995.
2. The Thesis Track requires completion of HIM 8016 and HIM 9996.

Job Prospects: Graduates of the program obtain positions in a variety of healthcare institutions or vendor settings in a wide range of positions such as electronic health record system implementation specialist, health data analyst and project manager. A number of external organizations, including AHIMA®, the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA®), and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), conduct annual surveys of job prospects.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students may take a maximum of 9 graduate-level credits. Upon completion of the credits, a student's academic performance is reviewed.

Transfer Credit: Graduate-level credits earned at another accredited institution may be evaluated during the application process. The maximum number of graduate credits a student may transfer is 6.

Financing Opportunities: Students in the MSHI program are generally working professionals. Therefore, funding for assistantships and academic internships is limited.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: March 1
Spring: November 1
The application process requires submission through the Centralized Application Service for Public Health (SOPHAS). The system can be accessed at https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/.

**Letters of Reference:**
*Number Required: 3*

*From Whom:* Recommendations should be obtained from faculty and/or professionals familiar with the applicant's academic competence and/or professional work experience.

**Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** All applicants must present credentials that are the equivalent of an accredited baccalaureate degree. The minimum acceptable undergraduate GPA is 3.0.

A WES evaluation is required for applicants who completed their bachelor's degree outside of the United States. This can be requested at https://www.wes.org/ and submitted through SOPHAS.

**Statement of Goals:** Demonstrate your professional writing ability as you describe your interest in obtaining the MSHI degree. Your statement should address the impact of informatics on health and healthcare as well as the effect a graduate degree can have on one's career.

**Standardized Test Scores:**
GRE: Optional, although applicants who believe GRE scores would complement their application are encouraged to submit scores. If submitted, quantitative and verbal scores are expected to be in the 50th percentile or above. Official GRE scores should be sent to SOPHAS using code 0151.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:
- TOEFL iBT: 79 (send officially to SOPHAS using the SOPHAS-specific TOEFL code 5688)
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53
- Duolingo: 110

**Resume:** Current resume required.

**Laptop:** All incoming students in the College of Public Health are required to have a laptop. Academic programs in the college are technology intensive. They incorporate statistical and database analyses; utilize specialized tools for athletic training, kinesiology and physical therapy; stream audio and video for communication sciences; facilitate online interactive counseling for social work; and foster clinical experiences and online assessments. The laptop requirement enables the College of Public Health to improve opportunities for active learning and provide greater access to specialized software and required tools in and out of the classroom, better preparing students for the workforce. Learn more about device specifications and suggested vendors. Students can use excess financial aid (i.e., funds that are reimbursed after all tuition and fees are paid) to meet student needs, including the purchase of a laptop. Scholarships may also provide funding.

**Program Requirements**

**General Program Requirements:**
*Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 36*

**Required Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5102</td>
<td>Applications of Computer Programming in Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5113</td>
<td>Database Administration for Health Informatics Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5128</td>
<td>Health Data: Standards and Interoperability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5129</td>
<td>Health Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRPR 5001</td>
<td>Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Electives**
Select five from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5106</td>
<td>Technology for Population Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5111</td>
<td>Technology for Healthcare Financial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5112</td>
<td>Health Information Systems: Design and Decision Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5127</td>
<td>Privacy and Security: Protecting Healthcare Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIM 5212  Application Development in Public Health  
HIM 5213  Informatics Solution Design and Development for Health Data and Its Applications  
HIM 5256  Global Health Informatics  
HIM 5299  Introduction to Language Processing and Text Mining for Health Professionals  
HIM 8216  Applications of Machine Learning for Health Informatics  
HPM 5006  Political and Economic Aspects of Health  
HPM 5122  Healthcare Quality and Safety  

Track-Specific Research Courses  
Select a track and complete its requirements:  
6  
Project Track  
HIM 5114  Health Informatics Project Management  
HIM 9995  Capstone Project  
Thesis Track  
HIM 8016  Principles and Practices of Health Informatics Research  
HIM 9996  Health Informatics Thesis  

Total Credit Hours  
36  

1  This common College Core course is required of all incoming graduate students in the College of Public Health. It is available completely online and designed such that students can complete the modules at their own pace over the course of their degree program.  

2  Five electives are taken from the list of Advanced Electives. With approval from the Program Director, other graduate courses, with the exception of HIM 5114 and HIM 8016, may be substituted as an advanced elective.  

3  HIM 5114 and HIM 8016 can only count once. These courses may not be substituted as an advanced elective.  

Full-Time On-Campus or Online MSHI  

Year 1  
Fall  
HIM 5101  Fundamentals of Health Informatics  
HIM 5102  Applications of Computer Programming in Health Informatics  
HIM 5113  Database Administration for Health Informatics Professionals  
HRPR 5001  Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions  

Credit Hours  
9  
cer  
Spring  
HIM 5128  Health Data: Standards and Interoperability  
HIM 5129  Health Data Analysis  
Advanced Elective  

Credit Hours  
9  

Year 2  
Fall  
Three Advanced Electives  

Credit Hours  
9  

Spring  
Both Track-Specific Courses  
Advanced Elective  

Credit Hours  
9  

Total Credit Hours  
36  

1  This common College Core course is required of all incoming graduate students in the College of Public Health. It is available completely online and designed such that students can complete the modules at their own pace over the course of their degree program.
Students may elect to complete this Advanced Elective in the Summer term of Year 1.

### Part-Time On-Campus or Online MSHI

#### Year 1

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5113</td>
<td>Database Administration for Health Informatics Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5128</td>
<td>Health Data: Standards and Interoperability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5129</td>
<td>Health Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRPR 5001</td>
<td>Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credit Hours**

- **Fall**: 6
- **Spring**: 6
- **Summer**: 3

**Year 2**

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIM 5102</td>
<td>Applications of Computer Programming in Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both Track-Specific Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credit Hours**

- **Fall**: 9
- **Spring**: 6
- **Summer**: 3

**Total Credit Hours**: 36

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1. This common College Core course is required of all incoming graduate students in the College of Public Health. It is available completely online and designed such that students can complete the modules at their own pace over the course of their degree program.

**Minimum Grade to be Earned for All Required Courses:** B-

**Culminating Event:** Successful completion of coursework is required to earn the MSHI.

### Contacts

**Program Web Address:**

https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/health-informatics-ms-hp-hlti-ms

**Department Information:**

Dept. of Health Services Administration and Policy  
Ritter Hall Annex, 9th Floor  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6005  
hlthinfo@temple.edu  
215-204-8726

**Submission Address for Application Materials:**

https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/
Department Contacts:

Admissions:
CPH Office of Admissions
cph@temple.edu
215-204-5200

Program Director:
Bari Dzomba, MS, PhD
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215-204-1892

Chairperson:
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