

Program Description:

The College of Arts and Sciences offers a new academic program, the Master of Science degree in Health Informatics. The program is offered online and is both a thesis and a non-thesis option. The Master's program requires students to complete 36 credit hours that includes either a capstone or a research project.

The development of the Master of Science in Health Informatics began as a result of the work of the Ochsner Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER). OXIHER seeks to improve overall community health, reduce health inequities, develop innovative healthcare delivery models, and model equitable and respectful care. The development of this program supports one of the guiding principles of OXIHER: Health Careers and Equity Education. This principle seeks to increase the number of healthcare workers who will lead and innovate in health equity. This program will increase the number of professionals who have an understanding of how to use and analyze health data with the ultimate purpose to improve patient care.

In addition to working with Ochsner Health, this program will also work with other local agencies, including the New Orleans Health Department and the Louisiana Public Health Institute. The Xavier program will also seek to work with the Louisiana Bureau of Health Informatics (LBHI). LBHI serves as the primary hub for many public health-wide data and informatics efforts which

includes: coordinating legislative mandates for reporting; managing meaningful use for public health, providing data and visualization services, and managing the Electronic Health Records system for the parish health clinics and other office-wide and external efforts and partnerships.

Xavier's Master of Science in Health Informatics program will expose students to three concentrations within the Health Informatics field: Population Health Informatics, Clinical Informatics, and Bioinformatics. In addition, the MS in Health Informatics program is designed to ensure graduates are prepared to:

- Select, implement, use, and evaluate health care information systems such as electronic health records (EHRs) and data management and analytic systems
- Lead organizational efforts in health informatics
- Apply data analytical skills to transform patient care and the care delivery process.

The overall goal of this program in health informatics is to produce competent and highly-competitive graduates capable of effectively leading health information system selection, implementation, and evaluation projects.

The Master of Science in Health Informatics program is designed to accomplish the following outcomes:

- Educate students so that they will be able to manage patient health information effectively and medical records, administer computer information systems, collect and analyze patient data from large datasets (e.g., clinical data warehouse) for decision making, and use classification systems and medical terminologies
- Educate students to understand various coding systems, terminology/nomenclatures, and relevant health information standards used in analyzing health data and facilitating health information exchange.

In addition to satisfying these goals, the M.S. in Health Informatics will be assessed based on the learning objectives and competencies of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM). The program graduate is expected to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that exist in the following domains:

- Health
- Information Science and Technology
- Social and Behavioral Science
- Health Information Science and Technology
- Human Factors and Socio-technical Systems
- Social and Behavioral Aspects of Health,
- Social, Behavioral, and Information Science and Technology Applied to Health
- Professionalism
- Inter-professional Collaborative Practice
- Leadership

Academic Program:

The curriculum will be closely structured to reflect foundational domains. The curriculum will require students to complete 36 credit hours: Core Courses (24 credit hours), Elective Courses (6 credit hours), and a capstone or research project (6 credit hours).

Students will be required to complete 24 hours of required core courses and a capstone or research project (6 credit hours) that are listed below:

- Fundamentals of Health Informatics (3 credit hours)
- Explorations of Statistics in Health Science (3 credit hours)
- Health Information Systems: Design and Decision Making (3 credit hours)
- Database Architecture and Administration (3 credit hours)
- Health Data Analysis (3 credit hours)
- Health Informatics Project Management (3 credit hours)



- Technology for Population Health (3 credit hours)
- Privacy and Security: Protecting Healthcare Data (3 credit hours)
- Capstone or Research Project (6 credit hours)

In addition, students will also select 6 credit hours of Health Informatics Electives that include:

- Securing Digital Infrastructure (3 credit hours)
- Technology for Healthcare Financial Management (3 credit hours)
- Healthcare Quality and Safety (3 credit hours)
- Big Data Use and Analysis (3 credit hours)
- Advanced Topics in Data Warehousing (3 credit hours)

Admission Requirements:

The Admissions requirements consist of official transcripts that indicate the completion of an undergraduate degree in allied health fields, science or social science, or business from an accredited institution, a minimum GPA of a 2.75, a personal statement, three (3) letters of recommendation, and may include an interview. International applicants will be required to submit information consistent with those items listed in the University Catalog; this includes official TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores.

Application Steps:

- Submit your online application
- Pay your \$30 application fee
- Have official transcripts and recommendation letters sent to our office via email to ogp@xula.edu or postal mail.
- Have official transcripts and recommendation letters sent to our office via email to ogp@xula.edu or postal mail to the Office of Graduate Programs at 1 Drexel Drive, Box 250, New Orleans, LA 70125.

Faculty

Xavier University of Louisiana currently includes full-time faculty qualified in Health Informatics. These faculty members are in Data Science, Public Health Sciences, and Pharmacy.

➤ Marian Okon, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Program Director, Health Informatics M.S., Department of Public Health Sciences



*For more information about the
Master of Science Degree in Health Informatics
please contact the*

OFFICE OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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<https://www.xula.edu/programs/collegeprogram/graduateprogram/master-of-science-degree-in-health-informatics.html>



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