MASTER OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (M.H.I.M.) MAJOR IN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (NON-THESIS OPTION)

Program Overview

The Major in Health Information Management (M.H.I.M.) offers current and emerging content about the evolving health information management field with the expanding reliance on patient data. The educational objectives of the program are:

- to prepare students for the emerging roles and functions within the health information management domain,
- to provide graduate level education that will prepare students to develop problem solving skills with the ability to analyze and evaluate systems, technology, regulations, data needs to assist in creating new methods, and in policy development,
- to provide a broad-based program of coursework that supports the varied aspects of HIM practice focusing on health data management, data analytics, health information technology project management, and compliance with regulations including privacy of patient information,
- to establish a framework for professional behavior and ethical principles to be used to guide decision-making and actions in the expanding role of health information management professionals, and
- to conduct research that will illustrate and define the health information body of knowledge.

The curriculum will help prepare leaders in the areas of information technology, data stewardship, Health Information Exchange information governance, clinical documentation integrity, project management, and quality data analytics.

Immunization Requirements

It is the policy of the College of Health Professions that each student must provide a health report completed by a physician or licensed healthcare provider, and must take specific immunizations before the student can be placed in a clinical or internship assignment. Information on these requirements and the required forms may be obtained through the department office.

Background Check and Drug Screening

As a condition for placement in some professional practice sites, some students are required to have a background check and/or drug screening to meet requirements set by individual sites. Information on the background check/drug screening process will be provided by the department. Previous misdemeanor or felony convictions under various titles of the Texas Penal Code may affect eligibility for practitioner license status following graduation.

Online Information

This program is taught exclusively online. For students residing outside of Texas and not planning on relocating to the state, please visit http://www.distancelearning.txstate.edu/ before applying.

Application Requirements

Application requirements consist of institutional and program requirements for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Additional information and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/).

Unless otherwise noted on The Graduate College program page, AI tools can only be used to correct spelling and grammar errors in application materials.

Institutional Requirements

Institutional requirements are the minimum standards for admission to any graduate program at Texas State. These include:

- Completed online application
- Nonrefundable application fee
  - Degree Programs (Doctoral and Master's)
    - $55 fee, or
    - $90 for applications with international credentials
  - Post-Baccalaureate Programs (Certificate, Certification, Non-Degree, and Visiting)
    - $20 fee, or
    - $60 for applications with international credentials
- Official transcripts from each institution where course credit was granted. Final transcripts showing degree completion are required before the student may register for their second term of enrollment.
- GPA requirements (a higher GPA may be listed in the Program Requirements)
  - Doctoral programs require a 3.00 overall GPA or a 3.00 GPA in your last 60 hours (https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
  - Master's and Specialist programs require a 2.75 overall GPA or a 2.75 GPA in your last 60 hours (https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
  - Post-Baccalaureate programs require a 2.50 overall GPA or a 2.50 GPA in your last 60 hours (https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html) for more information.)

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally

accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#waiver). Some programs may restrict acceptable tests or require higher scores than the institutional scores; this will be noted in the Program Requirements.

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall if taken on or before January 21, 2026
- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 4 overall if taken after January 21, 2026
- official PTE scores required with a 52 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall
- official Texas State Intensive English Program score of 90% or higher in the highest-level course (level 5)

The institution does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

- completed online application
- $55 nonrefundable application fee

  or
- $90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html) for more information.)
- official transcripts from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- a 2.75 overall GPA or a 2.75 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- completed background courses in: statistics, introduction to microcomputer applications, pathophysiology and pharmacology, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology
- GRE not required
- resume/CV
- statement of purpose indicating the student's ability and interest in completing the degree program
- three letters of recommendation from professionals or academics competent to assess the student's interest in pursuing a career or advancing in the field of study

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum program requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#waiver).

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official PTE scores required with a 52
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo Scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Health Information Management (M.H.I.M.) degree with a major in Health Information Management requires 36 semester credit hours.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
HIM 5311	Health Informatics and Data Visualization	3
HIM 5320	Biostatistics for Healthcare	3
HIM 5342	Information Systems and Technology	3
HIM 5351	Data Security, Privacy, and Confidentiality	3
HIM 5363	Health Data Content Structure and Standards	3
HIM 5370	Healthcare Finance and Revenue Cycle Management	3
HIM 5380	Assessing Healthcare Quality	3
HIM 5382	Healthcare Compliance	3
HIM 5390	Contemporary Leadership Principles for HIIM	3
Prescribed Electives		
Choose 9 hours from the following:		9
HIM 5301	Health Information Technology for Managers	
HIM 5340	Healthcare Informatics	
HIM 5341	Healthcare Terminologies and Vocabularies	
HIM 5343	Machine Learning for Healthcare Artificial Intelligence	
HIM 5344	Healthcare Database Management Systems	
HIM 5352	Introduction to Healthcare Information Security	
HIM 5353	Risk Analysis of Healthcare Systems	
HIM 5397	HIIM Directed Practicum	
Total Hours		**36**

Comprehensive Examination Requirement

The student must have completed 9 MHIM core courses with grades of "C" or higher by the time of taking the comprehensive exam or in the last semester when they are taking the core courses. The comprehensive exam contains 3 questions from each core course. The student selects 1 out of 3 questions in each course to answer. The expected length of answer to each question is about 1 page double spaced, 12-point font. The comprehensive exam is distributed to the students on March 1st in spring semesters (or October 1st in fall semesters), and due on March 21st in spring semester (or October 21st in fall semester). Faculty will score the exam as either passing or failing. Faculty complete grading by the end of March (or October). Students who fail the exam may retake the section(s) they failed from April 1st to April 15th (or November 1st to November 15th in fall semesters). For the second retake students must

select different questions from the first attempt for the core courses. Faculty complete the 2nd round grading by the end of April (or November). Students who fail twice are required to take one 3-credit independent study (approved by graduate faculty) to complete their degrees. At the end of the independent study, students take the third (and the last) comprehensive exam. The relevant faculty will decide the specific time of the third comp exam, which can be in December or January. Students who fail the third comprehensive exam will be dismissed from the graduate program.

Master's level courses in Health Information Management: HIM

Courses Offered

Health Information Management (HIM)

HIM 5199B. Thesis B.
This course provides continued enrollment and faculty supervision for students who have completed the required thesis hours but have not yet finished, defended, or submitted their thesis. Students must remain continuously enrolled in a thesis course each fall and spring semester—and summer if receiving supervision or using university resources—until the thesis is approved by The Graduate College. HIM 5199 provides ongoing supervision and structured progress expectations while students complete remaining research, analysis, revisions, or formatting requirements.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HIM 5300. Advanced Independent Study in Health Information Management.
This course provides a graduate-level independent study experience focused on the in-depth examination of complex and emerging issues in health information management and health informatics. Students conduct advanced scholarly investigation of a selected problem related to health data governance, health information technologies, healthcare analytics, regulatory compliance, or information management strategy. Emphasis is placed on critical evaluation of current research, synthesis of theory and professional practice, and development of evidence-based recommendations that address organizational or industry challenges. The course requires substantial independent inquiry, scholarly writing, and faculty-guided project development. May be repeated for credit with a different emphasis.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5301. Health Information Technology for Managers.
This course introduces core concepts and competencies in health information technology for healthcare professionals and managers. Topics include healthcare information systems, data governance, privacy and security, systems analysis, project management, clinical informatics, and leadership. Through applied case studies and scenario-based analysis, students examine the use of health information technology to support digital health initiatives and organizational performance. Emphasis is placed on developing strategic, technical, and operational understanding of health IT across healthcare settings.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5302. Clinical Foundations of Health Information Management.
This course will provide a clinical foundation in essential health informatics and information management principles and concepts. Students learn and apply concepts related to medical terminology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, anatomy and physiology, basic statistics, and microcomputer applications used in healthcare. Creation of graphical representations of healthcare data utilizing pie charts, bar graphs, and histograms is included. Students acquire the core knowledge needed to understand health data, utilize microcomputer and information systems to support clinical workflows, and develop competence as health informatics and information management professionals.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

HIM 5311. Health Informatics and Data Visualization.
This course provides an introduction to the fundamental concepts of data analytics and decision support. Students learn how data is collected, organized, analyzed, and transformed into meaningful insights that guide strategic decisions. A major focus is on quality#driven, data#based decision#making systems applied in business intelligence, consumer informatics, and health information exchanges. Students build practical skills for evaluating health data quality, interpreting analytical results, creating data visualizations and applying findings to provide information for effective organizational decision-making processes.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5320. Biostatistics for Healthcare.
This course will provide an introduction to biostatistics research methods and to the descriptive and inferential statistical techniques required to conduct research studies in healthcare. Students examine foundational approaches for compiling, analyzing, interpreting, and displaying biostatistical information used to report, evaluate, and monitor healthcare outcomes. Students develop practical skills for applying statistical reasoning, selecting analytical methods, and presenting results clearly to support evidence#based decision making across diverse clinical and organizational environments that reflect current practice standards.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5340. Healthcare Informatics.
This course will examine health informatics as a discipline concerned with the acquisition, management, and application of data, information, and knowledge across healthcare settings. Students analyze health information systems, data governance frameworks, and information protection strategies within the context of individual health, population health, public health, and health-related research. Through case-based inquiry, collaborative discussion, and a culminating project, students evaluate informatics solutions for healthcare delivery challenges and assess compliance considerations across the health information life cycle.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5341. Healthcare Terminologies and Vocabularies.
This course provides a comprehensive overview of healthcare terminologies, vocabularies, code sets, classification schemes, and the standards that support their effective use in clinical and administrative settings. Students examine mapping concepts and explore how the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED) relates to administrative classification systems such as the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Students analyze the purpose, challenges, and differences encountered when mapping a detailed terminology to a broader classification structure. Students apply data interchange standards such as HL7 and FHIR in healthcare applications.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5342. Information Systems and Technology.
This course will examine the foundational concepts, structures, and strategic uses of health information systems within contemporary healthcare organizations. Students analyze how information technologies support data quality, interoperability, compliance, and organizational performance. Emphasis is placed on system design, database development, project management methodologies, and the evaluation of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. Through applied assignments, team projects, and system focused analyses, students learn to assess requirements, recommend solutions, and support the selection, implementation, and governance of data driven health information systems.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5343. Machine Learning for Healthcare Artificial Intelligence.
This course will introduce foundational concepts of machine learning as applied to healthcare artificial intelligence, emphasizing how analytical techniques can be used to extract meaningful insights from complex clinical healthcare data sets. Students learn to evaluate and apply supervised and unsupervised learning algorithms, including decision trees, clustering methods, and related approaches commonly used in healthcare analytics. Students discover the practical considerations for preparing data, selecting appropriate models, and interpreting results to support informed and responsible decision-making processes.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5344. Healthcare Database Management Systems.
This course will introduce essential methods for healthcare database management, emphasizing how structured data supports accurate and timely decision making. Students learn principles of physical data modeling and explore techniques for creating databases, populating tables, optimizing data queries, and maintaining strong integrity controls. Additional topics include designing effective database security systems, analyzing data relationships, and generating meaningful reports that help healthcare organizations manage information responsibly to improve clinical and operational outcomes across a variety of settings and processes.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5351. Data Security, Privacy, and Confidentiality.
This course will provide an in depth examination of the legal, regulatory, ethical, and technological frameworks that govern the privacy, security, and confidentiality of protected health information across the healthcare continuum. Students analyze federal and state laws, including HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, evaluate organizational policies, and develop strategies for compliance, risk mitigation, and fraud prevention. Through case studies, policy development, team projects, and applied assessments, students learn to identify vulnerabilities, design safeguards, and support organizational accountability in managing health information.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5352. Introduction to Healthcare Information Security.
This course will introduce foundational concepts, principles, and practices in healthcare information security, emphasizing the protection of electronic protected health information across a variety of technical and organizational environments. Students examine major security threats, vulnerabilities, and attack vectors while evaluating methods for preventing breaches, strengthening authentication, and hardening systems. Topics include confidentiality, integrity, availability, encryption, malware, ransomware, intrusion detection and prevention, social engineering, and risk management. Through applied assignments and team projects, students assess organizational safeguards and develop strategies to enhance security readiness and resilience.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5353. Risk Analysis of Healthcare Systems.
This course will focus on the methods, tools, and analytical frameworks used to evaluate and manage security risks within healthcare information systems. Students examine computer systems, networks, and security technologies to identify vulnerabilities and understand how weaknesses can compromise electronic health record environments. Coursework emphasizes risk analysis methodology, HIPAA related considerations, penetration testing concepts, wireless security, and audit requirements. Through team based assessments and applied exercises, students learn to analyze threats, determine potential impacts, prioritize risks, and recommend controls that strengthen organizational security posture.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5363. Health Data Content Structure and Standards.
This course will provide an in depth exploration of health data content, structure, and standards across the healthcare continuum. Students examine documentation requirements, data governance principles, interoperability frameworks, and classification systems used to support accurate, reliable health information. Through applied activities, coding technologies, and analysis of electronic health records, learners develop competencies in data integrity, health information exchange, and information governance. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, communication, and the evolving role of HIIM professionals in advancing an interoperable health IT ecosystem.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5370. Healthcare Finance and Revenue Cycle Management.
This course will examine financial and revenue cycle management issues that affect the practice of Health Information Management in contemporary healthcare organizations. Topics include the healthcare financial environment, reimbursement methodologies, coding compliance, case mix index, and revenue cycle processes. Financial statement analysis, operating indicators, and regulatory compliance frameworks are analyzed in relation to organizational performance and financial sustainability. Emphasis is placed on the interaction between coding accuracy, reimbursement systems, and financial outcomes. The course also analyzes regulatory and payer requirements that shape revenue cycle operations and financial management practices within healthcare systems.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5380. Assessing Healthcare Quality.
This course will provide an in#depth examination of quality improvement methodologies, including data retrieval, display, outcomes analysis, and key elements of risk management across healthcare sectors. Students explore mechanisms that encourage organization#wide involvement in achieving high#quality patient care aligned with accreditation and regulatory standards. Students develop and apply practical strategies for evaluating performance, interpreting quality indicators, and applying improvement tools that support safer, more efficient clinical, technical, and administrative processes throughout various healthcare environments and operational areas.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5382. Healthcare Compliance.
This course will examine the principles and practices of healthcare compliance with an emphasis on developing, implementing, and evaluating effective compliance programs across healthcare organizations. Students explore regulatory requirements, legal processes affecting health information, risk management strategies, policy implications, and methods for detecting and preventing healthcare fraud. Through applied activities, learners analyze external forces shaping compliance, design training initiatives, and recommend organizational strategies that promote ethical conduct and regulatory adherence. The course prepares graduate health information professionals to support compliance infrastructure and lead initiatives that strengthen accountability and organizational integrity.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5390. Contemporary Leadership Principles for HIIM.
This course will analyze leadership and organizational management principles relevant to health information management professionals in complex healthcare environments. Topics include leadership theory, organizational change, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, information governance, workforce development, and professional ethics. Leadership roles and decision-making processes are examined in relation to healthcare policy, organizational strategy, and data-driven management practices. Students also analyze approaches for developing strategic alliances, managing organizational change, and integrating ethical and responsive leadership practices within health information management departments and healthcare organizations.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HIM 5397. HIIM Directed Practicum.
This course will provide structured, supervised experiential learning in a healthcare or related organization, enabling students to apply advanced health informatics and information management competencies in a real world setting. Each student participates in an orientation to the host site, engages in supervised professional activities, and completes a project that addresses an organizational need and is suitable for implementation. The practicum reinforces prior coursework, strengthens professional readiness, and supports the transition from academic learning to applied practice. Prerequisite: Department approval.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 10 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HIM 5399A. Thesis A.
This course will begin the graduate thesis sequence. Students develop a formal thesis proposal, establish a thesis committee, and initiate supervised research. Students refine their research question, conduct a literature review, and prepare the official Thesis Proposal Form required by The Graduate College. Activities include defining the study's scope, selecting appropriate research methods, and completing any required compliance processes such as Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval. Successful completion of HIM 5399A demonstrates readiness to conduct independent research and provides the foundation for continued thesis work in HIM 5399B.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HIM 5399B. Thesis B.
This course will continue the thesis sequence in which students conduct, analyze, and complete their approved research project. Under the supervision of their thesis committee, students collect and analyze data, interpret findings, and prepare the thesis manuscript according to the Thesis & Dissertation Resource Guides. Students must demonstrate sustained progress each semester of enrollment and remain continuously enrolled in a thesis course until the thesis is defended, approved by the committee, and submitted to The Graduate College. HIM 5399B culminates in the thesis defense and final submission for Graduate College approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit