NURSING INFORMATICS

What is the graduate of the Master of Science in Nursing Informatics prepared to do?

Nursing Informatics Specialists participate in the analysis, design, and implementation of information and communication systems, effectiveness and informatics research, and the education of nursing informatics and information technology. Nursing Informatics is a combination of computer science, cognitive science, information science, and nursing science. The focus of nursing informatics practice is the organization, analysis, and dissemination of information, rather than the computer itself. The graduate of this specialty track is prepared to manage and process nursing data, information, and knowledge to support the practice of nursing and the delivery of nursing care. This specialist assists health care providers by supplying information to enhance decision-making and the delivery of safe patient care. The work is integrally related to clinical and administrative practice.

Who employs Nursing Informatics Specialists?

Graduates might assume a variety of positions in health care systems. These specialists are integral to the selection and design of facility clinical information systems. Home health agencies, managed care entities, public and private sector hospitals, long-term and ambulatory care facilities, and insurance companies are searching for nurses educated in informatics. Companies that design, build, and implement information systems in acute and ambulatory care employ this specialist as systems analysts and project managers.

Can I further specialize further as a Nursing Informatics Specialists?

Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement.

What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the MSN program. However, the faculty strongly encourages students admitted to the Nursing Informatics specialty track to have at least one year of professional nursing experience.

What are the admission criteria?

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by UAB School of Nursing
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulatively or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
- (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant’s potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score (MAT, GRE, GMAT)* A minimum score of 410 on the MAT; or a minimum score of 480 on the GMAT; or a combined score of 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.

Approval for the GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver does not imply or guarantee admission to the MSN program. When all of your transcripts are evaluated, if you do not meet the requirements, you will be notified that you need to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT. Candidates not approved for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver will be required to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT before final action on their application for master’s study. The School of Nursing at UAB must receive the official score by the posted materials deadline. Applicants for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver must meet the same requirements for admission to the MSN program as all other applicants.

***The following individuals are not eligible for the GRE waiver process:
- International applicants
- Non-Native English speaking applicants
- Dual degree seeking program applicants MSN/MPH

For International Students:

- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at isss@uab.edu, (205), 934-3328, FAX 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any academic program
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc www.ece.org OR the World Education Services www.wes.org, sent from the evaluators directly to the School of Nursing
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- Standardized test score. A minimum combined score of 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
When will I receive confirmation that I have been accepted into the program?
You will be notified of your acceptance or denial within 60 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?
Total Credit Hours: 41; Didactic Hours: 36; Clinical Hours: 4; Total Hours of Direct application: 240 contact hours

Description: The core content examines the theory of nursing science, research and statistical knowledge and skills, as well as advanced nursing practice professional role development, management and leadership. Support courses provide the basis for the integration of theories related to the field of informatics for the practice of nursing informatics. Courses include systems analysis, project management, financial reporting and analysis, database modeling, and organizational behavior. The advanced nursing clinical courses include both didactic and clinical learning opportunities. Didactic content is based on a synthesis of theoretical concepts for nursing informatics practice, and builds on the knowledge and skills obtained in the core and support courses. Students are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation and students must pass a comprehensive examination in order to graduate. Should academic problems arise, an additional on-campus visit may be required.

How many semesters of study are required?
Students who start course work in the summer semester will take seven semesters to complete the program. The programs of study are listed below.

Distance Accessibility
Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for student is Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

Will I be able to take the Nursing Informatics Specialist certification examination if I complete this program of study?
Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and meet the educational and clinical requirements to apply for certification in Nursing Informatics, offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

How do I become eligible to practice as an Informatics specialist in my state?
Most states do not require special licensure or qualifications to practice Nursing Informatics. However, each state differs in many requirements for practice. It is the graduate’s responsibility to check with the Board of Nursing in the state in which practice is desired to see if specific requirements apply.

What is a typical program of study like?

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<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Program of Study</th>
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<td>NUR 604 Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles</td>
<td>Summer Year 1</td>
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<td>NUR 606 Translating Evidence into Practice</td>
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<td>NUR 610 Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice</td>
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<td>HI 600 Analysis and Design of Health Information Systems</td>
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<td>HI 601 Databases and Data Modeling</td>
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<td>NHSA 616 Nursing Financial Management</td>
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<td>NHSA 631 Advanced Quality and Patient Safety</td>
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<td>NUR 643 Introduction to Nursing Informatics</td>
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<td>NNI 625 Organizational Process and Behavior</td>
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<td>NNI 621 Conceptual Basis for Informatics Practice</td>
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<td>NNI 685 Nursing Informatics Practicum I</td>
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<td>NNI 622 The Information System Life-Cycle</td>
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<td>NNI 686 Nursing Informatics Practicum II</td>
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Total: 41 Credits

Internet website: https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/

General information about the application process
Charlene Bender, MPH
MSN Program Manager
(205) 975-7529 | cbender@uab.edu

Information Regarding Nursing Informatics
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UAB is an equal education opportunity institution.