

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 the School of Nursing at UAB
- 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
- (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 1000 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.

* GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver Process: http://www.uab.edu/nursing/images/stories/infostudents/GRE_MAT_waiver.pdf

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.

*An alternate master's in nursing pathways option is available: <http://www.uab.edu/nursing/student-information/acad-prog/amnp>

*****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:

- 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 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- If your Visa status is F1 or J1, meet with your course faculty by week 2 of each semester to plan how you will meet Federal Regulations
- Possess a 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 30 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total Credit Hours: 41; Didactic Hours: 37; Clinical Hours: 4; Total Hours of Direct application: 210 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 must pass a comprehensive examination in order to graduate.

How many semesters are required for full-time study in the Informatics specialty track?

Full-time study, as defined by the University is 9 credit hours per semester and is available for the Informatics specialty track spring admission. Part-time programs of study are also available for students entering in either the fall or spring semesters in the academic year.

Will I be able to take the Nursing Informatics Specialist certification examination if I complete this program of study?

Graduates of the Nursing Informatics specialty track 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?

<u>Coursework</u>		<u>Part Time Programs of Study</u>	
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice3	<u>Fall Year 1</u> NUR 602	<u>Spring Year 1</u> NUR 600
NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice.....4	HI 600	MBA 632
HI 600	Analysis and Design of Health Information Systems.....4	<u>Spring Year 1</u> NUR 601	<u>Summer Year 1</u> NUR 601
HI 601	Databases and Data Modeling4	HI 601	NUR 643
MBA 618	Technology Based Project Management.....4	<u>Summer Year 1</u> NNI 643	<u>Fall Year 1</u> HI 600
MBA 632	Organizational Process and behavior.....3		NNI 621
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice .3	<u>Fall Year 2</u> HCO 615	<u>Spring Year 2</u> HI 601
NUR 643	Introduction to Nursing Informatics3		NNI 622
HCO 615	Financial Reporting and Analysis for Management.....3	<u>Spring Year 2</u> MBA 618	<u>Summer Year 2</u> NUR 602
NNI 621	Conceptual Basis for Informatics Practice3	MBA 632	
NNI 685	Nursing Informatics Practicum I.....2	<u>Summer Year 2</u> NUR 600	<u>Fall Year 2</u> HCO 615
NNI 622	The Information System Life-Cycle.....3		NNI 685
NNI 686	Nursing Informatics Practicum II.....2	<u>Fall Year 2</u> NNI 621	<u>Spring Year 3</u> NNI 686
	Total.....41 Credits	NNI 685	MBA 618
		<u>Spring Year 3</u> NNI 622	
		NNI 686	

Where can I get more information?
 Internet website: <http://www.uab.edu/nursing>

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