Learn today. Deploy tomorrow.

This is a critical time for leaders to direct the future of healthcare. The UAB Healthcare Quality and Safety Certificate offers you unique, multidisciplinary approaches to the analysis and solution of complex problems that you can deploy immediately.

Only three semesters. Totally online.

The HQS Master’s program is tailored to fit you and your busy life. At your convenience, develop the knowledge and skills to conduct clinical and non-clinical process improvement projects in a complex health care environment.


Advancing quality and safety is essential to better healthcare outcomes.

Application Process

Students are admitted in the fall and may enroll in one or multiple courses in a given term. Contact the program manager for information about taking a course for continuing education purposes.

Application Deadline:

July 1

Contact Information

Department of Health Services Administration
590 B School of Health Professions Building
720 2nd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294
205.934.3529 | SHRP-GCHQS@uab.edu

WWW.UAB.EDU/HQS
Masters in Healthcare Quality and Safety Curriculum
(36 Hours)

Eleven courses are required to earn the degree. Students may enroll in one or multiple courses in a given term.

HQS 600 INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (4 hours)
Clinical quality improvement theory; classes of outcomes; process management; management tools and modeling techniques for improvement of clinical processes and decision-making. Includes team-based application project.

HQS 610 QUANTITATIVE METHODS, MEASUREMENT, AND TOOLS FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (4 hours)
Statistical process control techniques applied to clinical and patient service processes, including Lean and Six Sigma methodologies; data system design concepts applied to clinical and financial data for managing health care business processes. Includes team-based application project.

HQS 615 COLLABORATIVE ANALYTICS FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT (3 hours)
Survey of clinical enterprise data, information, and analytics employed by quality improvement teams, including data capture/collection, archiving and retrieval systems, and database structure. Emphasis on conceptual understanding of statistical and analytical approaches to investigate and resolve organizational quality and safety issues in a team environment.

HQS 625 FUNDAMENTALS OF PATIENT SAFETY (4 hours)
Nature and science of patient error; strategies for design of safety-critical systems; hazard analysis and risk assessment in health care organizations; design elements of safety program and high reliability systems. Includes team-based assignment.

HQS 630 LEADERSHIP OF HIGH RELIABILITY HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS (3 hours)
Applying concepts of high reliability organizations to create an organizational culture that supports strong, functional, and safe patient care environments resulting in quality clinical care and patient satisfaction. Includes team-based assignment.

HQS 635 HEALTHCARE POLICY AND REGULATION (3 hours)
External drivers for quality and safety improvement in healthcare organizations, particularly policies and regulations affecting reimbursement. Discussion and analysis of key federal legislation and regulations promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and The Joint Commission.

HQS 675 EVALUATING AND DESIGNING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MODELS (3 hours)
Application of analytical and decision tools to determine appropriate enterprise models for quality improvement, including problem identification, selection of metrics, analytical approaches, prioritization criteria, and post-implementation evaluation.

HQS 698 INTEGRATIVE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE/ NON-THESIS PROJECT (3-6 hours)
Participation on a multidisciplinary team to investigate a process improvement opportunity in a healthcare organization and propose a solution, applying the concepts and tools presented in the program courses. A written project report is required.

HIM 665 HEALTH DATA ANALYTICS FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (4 hours)
Data analysis and use of comparative data from internal and external sources for improving performance measures in health care organizations; benchmarking performance measures; public reporting of data; methods use to improve quality scores.

HRP 650 MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR CLINICAL PROFESSIONALS (2 hours)
Leadership concepts and management principles as employed by clinical professionals in health care organizations. Focus on effective approaches to communication, change and conflict management, performance and financial management, and cultural competence.

ELECTIVE (3 hours)

2016-2017 Estimated Program Expenses
(Subject to change at the beginning of any term)

TUITION & FEES
Tuition (3 credit hours) $1,760
On-line Course Fee $250
Major Medical Insurance* required

* All students are required to have personal insurance coverage. See the UAB Student Health and Wellness site for more information (http://www.uab.edu/studenthealth/insurance-and-waivers/mandatory-insurance-waivers)

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