

# DEGREE PROGRAMS

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATICS

The Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) is a specialized program of study to serve the increasing workforce needs in the area of health information technology. The curriculum utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to include health care delivery concepts coupled with information technology in a changing environment. Courses are designed to prepare graduates in the area of privacy and security of health care information, leadership and policy within the health care environment, as well as emerging concepts in information technology as related to the health care setting. Graduates will be able to choose electives to aid in accomplishing their career goals within the area of health information technology.

*This program may be completed online.*

### Unconditional Admission

Students are eligible to apply for unconditional admission to the Master of Science degree program in Health Informatics if they meet the following requirements:

- 1 .Applicants must meet the admission requirements for [Graduate College](#).
- 2 .Applicants must have successfully completed HIM 3023 or demonstrate comparable background. The background may be demonstrated by previous coursework or by relative work experience, as determined by the MSHI Graduate Committee.
- 3 .Applicants must have successfully completed a three (3) semester hour course in computer programming, such as COMS 2203 or demonstrate comparable background. The background may be demonstrated by previous coursework or by relative work experience, as determined by the MSHI Graduate Committee.
- 4 .Applicants must provide a letter of intent that addresses their interests, goals, and reasons for applying to the degree program.
- 5 .Approval from the Program Director.

### Conditional Admission

Applicants who fail to satisfy the grade point requirements for unconditional admission or who do not satisfy requirements 2-3 above may be admitted conditionally by the MSHI Graduate Committee to earn a maximum of twelve (12) hours of graduate credit. Conditional admission may require taking one or more undergraduate and/or graduate courses to remove those conditions. Any such courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or better. In addition, if the student was admitted conditionally due to grade point average, the student must earn a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average in all graduate courses taken for the program by the end of the semester in which the twelfth (12) graduate hour is completed.

### Academic Advisors

The MSHI Graduate Committee will assign a faculty advisor to each student admitted to the MSHI degree program. The advisor will assist the student in the design of a curriculum of study that leads to the fulfillment of degree requirements. Additionally the academic advisor and the Graduate College will monitor the student's progress. It remains, however, the student's responsibility to understand and to satisfy all degree requirements.

### Degree Requirements

- 1 .A minimum of 35 semester hours of coursework at the graduate level must be completed. These hours include 29 semester hours of core requirements and six (6) hours of INFT, HI 5000-level or 6000-level electives, or electives that are deemed acceptable by MSHI Program Director.
- 2 .A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 in all graduate courses completed at Arkansas Tech University with a maximum of six (6) hours of "C" grades. A student receiving more than six (6) hours of "C" or grades lower than "C" should refer to the section of the catalog on [Academic Probation and Dismissal](#).
- 3 .A minimum of 27 hours of graduate course work completed at Arkansas Tech University.
- 4 .Completion of all degree requirements within four (4) years of admission into the program.

#### Core Courses (23 hours)

[HI 5092 Research in HIM](#)  
[HI 6053 Emerging Trends in Health Information Technology](#)  
[HI 6063 Leadership in Health Informatics](#)  
[HI 6073 Security and Privacy in Health Informatics](#)  
[HI 6083 Health Care Policy](#)  
[INFT 5403 Introduction to Information Technology and Systems](#)  
[INFT 5203 Database Systems](#)  
[MATH 5173 Advanced Biostatistics](#)

[HI 6991 Thesis Research \(6 hours required\)](#)  
 OR  
[HI 6983 Research Project \(3 Hours required\) AND Three \(3\) Hours of Electives](#)

#### Elective Courses - Choose two courses (6 hours)

[INFT 6013 Decision Support Systems](#)

INFT 6903 Emerging Trends

INFT 5053 Information Systems Resource Management

INFT 5303 Developing and Administering Web Sites

*Additional approved electives may be available.*

## Degree Works

Degree Works is a software tool utilized by Arkansas Tech University designed to detail academic progression. It allows both students and advisors to monitor course progress towards degree completion and clearly indicates which course requirements have been met as well as how courses transfer into a program. Transfer courses must be approved through the use of a substitution/waiver form available via the Registrar for progress to display correctly within Degree Works.

Degree Works will display course progression based on the current program of study, but a "what-if" scenario can be generated for any program to see how progression looks with the courses currently completed and in progress. Note that if you have applied to and been admitted to a graduate program while still finishing your undergraduate program, Degree Works will show your new program of study in the graduate program and you would have to generate a "what-if" query to see your undergraduate degree progress.

## Application for Graduation

In addition to satisfying all degree requirements, a candidate for a degree must file an [Application for Graduation](#) online or at the Graduate College. Students must apply for graduation upon completion of fifteen (15) graduate credit hours.

## Special Conditions of Graduate Credit

### Graduate Credit Taken Prior to Admission to Arkansas Tech University

A maximum of nine (9) semester hours of graduate credit with a grade point average of "B" or better may be transferred from an accredited graduate school if deemed appropriate to the MSHI Graduate Committee, the Director of the MSHI program, and the Graduate College Dean. Students must send a written request through the MSHI Graduate Committee and program director to petition an acceptance of the transfer credit prior to requesting admission to candidacy to the graduate program. Graduate credit earned six (6) years prior to the completion date of all degree requirements may not be applied toward the degree without the approval of the MSHI program director and the Graduate College Dean. Credits earned by correspondence courses or for remedial purposes will not apply toward the graduate degree. No undergraduate course may be repeated for graduate credit.

### Graduate Credit Taken After Admission to Arkansas Tech University

If after admission to graduate study, a student wishes to take a course at another institution to count toward degree requirements at Arkansas Tech University, the student must (in advance of enrollment) obtain written approval from the program director and the Graduate College Dean.