**HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Program Director: Arvela Heider, PhD

Faculty: Bonnie Sunday, MD; Raymond Mueller, MS; Heather Lindstrom, PhD; Vicki Landes, RN, BSN, MBA; Leah Macvie, MS.

Degree: Master of Science

**Introduction**

The Online Master of Science in Health Information Technology is the only fully online master’s degree in Western New York that allows students to sit for certification exams from organizations such as Healthcare Information, Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

The MS in Health Information Technology is completed entirely online and is designed for professionals who are currently working in health care, technology, health care policy, public health or related fields. The program is 38 credit hours and has no residency requirement, making it ideally suited for working professionals who need to balance work, family, and continuing education.

The program is ideal for working professionals and will prepare graduates to:

- Assume a leadership role in the emerging health care field.
- Understand increasingly complex health care operations.
- Serve others to help improve health care delivery.
- Obtain the skills needed to use health information as part of the decision-making and critical thinking necessary to work in the health care field.
- Gain marketable knowledge and skills in the health care environment.
- Work wherever health information is collected, organized and analyzed.
- Quickly contribute to the efficiency and productivity of a health care organization.
- Take certification exams from such organizations as Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

**Admission**

We recommend submitting all material required for admission at least 30 days prior to the start of the term you wish to begin. Earlier application will ensure the best scheduling options, as some course sections may become unavailable. The program starts only during the fall semester, and the optional accelerated eight-week terms allow you to complete the program in two years by taking classes during the summer.

To qualify for admission, all students must:

- Complete the graduate admissions application.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning with a minimum GPA of 2.70.
- Submit one (1) official undergraduate transcript from each institution attended with the degree posted from the degree-granting institution.
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation.
- Submit a current resume.
- Provide a statement of purpose of approximately 500 words explaining your motivation for pursuing the MS in Health Information Technology at Canisius College. The statement may be submitted in the essay section of the graduate application.
- Complete a phone or face-to-face interview with the program director or a department representative.

**Transfer credit:** Previous graduate level transfer credits will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**Program Details**

**Academic Standing**

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.00 to graduate from the program. If the GPA drops below 3.00, the student will be placed on academic probation. If the student does not bring his/her cumulative GPA above 3.00 by the end of the next term, the student may be dismissed from the program. A student may also be academically dismissed from the program by receiving more than 2 grades below B-. More information can be found at program website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/health-information-technology).

**Curriculum**

Total credit hours = 35

Every student must complete all of the courses in the curriculum, including the professional project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALH 500</td>
<td>Health Care Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 515</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Information Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Information and Computer Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIT 535</td>
<td>Understanding EHRs</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIT 545</td>
<td>Health Management Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 555</td>
<td>Networking and Health Information Exchange</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIT 600</td>
<td>Health IT Workflow</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIT 615</td>
<td>Public Health Information Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIT 625</td>
<td>Health IT Security and Privacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 635</td>
<td>Planning, Management, and Leadership for Health IT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALH 645</td>
<td>Teaching Technology for Health Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 689</td>
<td>Master’s Project/Practicum I</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 699</td>
<td>Master’s Project/Practicum II</td>
<td>1</td>
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Total Credits 35

**Learning Goals & Objectives**

**Learning Goal 1 (KNOWLEDGE – Observed in Writing)**

Candidates in the MS Health IT program will have the opportunity in all courses to demonstrate content knowledge, pedagogical, and the professional knowledge necessary for successful performance in their professional careers.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of principles of health IT in various health care settings.
2. Demonstrate the ability to use the commonly used terms in health IT including clinical vocabularies as well as terminologies related to the implementation of information systems.
Learning Goal 2 (KNOWLEDGE – Observed Skills and Dispositions)

Candidates in the MS Health IT program will have the opportunity in all courses to demonstrate professional skills and dispositions necessary for successful performance in their field.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Understand adoption of health IT standards in the context of the HITECH Act.

Learning Goal 3 (SERVICE)

Candidates in the MS Health IT program will have the opportunity to demonstrate willingness to use their skills to benefit and serve society. Within the contexts of their work, candidates promote authentic learning, social and emotional development, and a commitment to social justice in environments that foster respect for diversity and the dignity of all.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Understand moral and ethical implications of use of Health IT.
2. Communicate effectively about Health IT across the full range of use that will be encountered in health care settings.

Learning Goal 4 (PROFESSIONALISM)

Candidates in the MS Health IT program will have the opportunity in all courses to demonstrate self-reflection as a habit of mind, continuously assessing and refining their professional practice as they construct a rich repertoire of research-based knowledge, skills, and attitudes for effective performance ensuring that all students and/or clients have optimal opportunities to learn and grow.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Act with integrity and fairness to ensure Health IT accountability for while modeling principles of self-awareness, reflective practice, transparency, and ethical behavior.

Learning Goal 5 (LEADERSHIP)

Candidates in the MS Health IT program will have the opportunity to become adept at applying their acquired knowledge in the process of evaluating their own professional performance and decision-making with respect to its impact on students and/or clients, organizations, and the wider community.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Understand the roles and responsibilities in Health IT, how the roles complement or overlap with one another.

Understand, anticipate, and assess emerging trends in Health IT.

Courses

In addition to the courses listed below, courses for this program with the Allied Health (ALH) prefix can be found on the Professional Studies page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/graduate/school-education-human-services/professional-studies/#coursestext).

HIT 515 Introduction to Health Information Technology 3 Credits
This course traces the development of IT systems in health care and public health, beginning with the experiments of the 1960s and culminating in the HITECH Act. The course focuses on the concept of meaningful use of technology and the federally required stages of Meaningful Use.
Offered: every fall & spring, online only.

HIT 525 Introduction to Information and Computer Science 3 Credits
This course is recommended for students without an IT background providing: a basic overview of computer architecture; data organization, representation and structure; networking; and data communication. Includes basic terminology of computing.
Prerequisite: HIT 515.
Offered: every spring, online only.

HIT 535 Understanding EHRs 3 Credits
This course introduces students to the components, selection, use and optimization of electronic health records (“EHRs”). Policies and reports that have encouraged adoption of EHRs will be reviewed. Functionality, usability and safety issues will be emphasized. The course enables students to understand the impact of EHR adoption on health care providers and patients in the United States.
Prerequisites: HIT 515, HIT 525, and HIT 555.
Offered: every fall, online only.

HIT 545 Health Management Information Systems 3 Credits
This course presents general functions, purposes and benefits of health information systems in various health care settings in terms of their ability to support the requirements of a health care enterprise. Course content lays the foundation for understanding health management information systems (HMIS). Topics include HMIS: applications; planning; management; standards; and case studies.
Prerequisite: ALH 500 & HIT 515.
Offered: every summer, online only.

HIT 555 Networking and Health Information Exchange 3 Credits
This course involves instruction on data mobility (HISP) and other standards, Internet protocols, federations and grids, the National Health Information Network (NHIN) and other nationwide approaches, continuity of care documents, etc.
Prerequisite: HIT 515 & HIT 525.
Offered: every spring, online only.

HIT 600 Health IT Workflow 3 Credits
This course introduces the concepts of health IT and practice workflow redesign as instruments of quality improvement. For those focused on health care, course materials will address establishing a culture that uses IT to support improved quality and safety. Approaches to assessing patient safety issues and implementing quality management and reporting through electronic systems will be discussed. For those with IT backgrounds, the course includes fundamentals of health workflow process analysis and redesign as a necessary component of complete practice automation; includes topics of process validation and change management.
Prerequisites: ALH 500, HIT 515, 525, and 555
Offered: every summer, online only.

HIT 615 Public Health Information Technology 3 Credits
This course provides an overview of specialized public health applications such as registries, epidemiological databases, and bio-surveillance.
Prerequisite: HIT 515, HIT 525, HIT 535, HIT 545, HIT 555.
Offered: every summer, online only.
HIT 625 Health IT Security and Privacy  3 Credits
This course will focus on increasing understanding of the State and Federal health care laws and regulations regarding security and privacy. Students will learn to develop health care solutions and strategies within the limitations of these statutes. Students will demonstrate an understanding of HIPAA and how to protect its use or guard against misuse.
**Prerequisite:** HIT 515, HIT 525, HIT 535, HIT 545, HIT 555.
**Offered:** every fall, online only.

HIT 635 Planning, Management, and Leadership for Health IT  3 Credits
This course is intended for those preparing for leadership roles and includes the principles of leadership and effective management of teams. Emphasis on the leadership modes and styles best suited to health IT deployment. Students will receive a broad overview of project management including some distinctive characteristics of health IT projects. This unit includes several real life scenarios to illustrate the diversity of projects in health IT.
**Prerequisite:** HIT 515, HIT 525, HIT 535, HIT 545, HIT 555.
**Offered:** every spring, online only.

HIT 689 Master’s Project/Practicum I  1 Credit
The master’s project is designed as a rigorous scholarly activity that provides an opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with research and/or practical experience.
**Prerequisite:** HIT 515, HIT 525, HIT 535, HIT 545, HIT 555 & permission of program director.

HIT 699 Master’s Project/Practicum II  1 Credit
The master’s project is designed as a rigorous scholarly activity that provides an opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with research and/or practical experience.
**Prerequisite:** HIT 515, HIT 525, HIT 535, HIT 545, HIT 555 & permission of program director.