The Department of Health Information Management at Texas State University offers a master of health information management (M.H.I.M.) degree. The online M.H.I.M. degree program offers current and emerging content about the evolving health information management field with the expanding reliance on patient data. H.I.M. professionals are trained in the latest information management technology applications and understand the workflow in healthcare organizations from large hospital systems to private physician practices.

The M.H.I.M. is designed to prepare leaders in the field of health information and informatics with advanced knowledge and data analysis skills. With the implementation of electronic health records and recent payment reform initiatives, providers are motivated to be more efficient in their practices. To achieve efficiency, H.I.M. professionals are needed for a diverse range of positions that involve the collection, handling and processing of clinical information for many purposes that will revolutionize clinical healthcare decision making and strategic planning. The job market for H.I.M. professionals ranges from large medical and hospital systems, private physician practice, healthcare consulting companies, software and service vendors to a variety of healthcare-related organizations.
Course Work
The M.H.I.M. is a 36-hour degree program that includes a 30-hour core of health information management (H.I.M.) course work plus six hours of electives or a thesis option. Electives in H.I.M., computer information systems and health administration allow students to select a curriculum aligned with their career goals. Students who choose the thesis option will complete six hours of thesis in lieu of electives.

Principal areas of study include health data content structure and standards; data security, privacy and ethics; electronic health records throughout the enterprise; informatics, analytics and data use; healthcare finance and revenue cycle management; quality improvement; research methods; compliance for H.I.M. topics; and contemporary leadership principles for H.I.M.

M.H.I.M. Program Objectives
1. To provide a degree program that will prepare students for the emerging roles and functions within the health information management domain.
2. To provide graduate-level education where students develop problem-solving skills with ability to analyze and evaluate systems, technology, regulations and data needs to assist in creating new methods to achieve greater efficiency.
3. To provide a broad-based program of course work to support the varied aspects of H.I.M. practice focusing on data management, data analytics, compliance and regulations including privacy of patient information.
4. To establish a framework for professional behavior and ethical principles to be used to guide decision making and actions in the expanding role of health information management professionals.
5. To conduct research that will exemplify and define the health information body of knowledge.

Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) Credential Option: Students who complete the M.H.I.M. along with additional undergraduate course work may be eligible to sit for the national certification exam to become a RHIA. Additional undergraduate courses or equivalents will be needed in medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, statistics and coding classification. The RHIA credential is recognized by healthcare employers and can position the M.H.I.M. graduate as a leader and role model in the health informatics and information management community.

Admission Policy
Course prerequisites for M.H.I.M. students include statistics and Introduction to Microcomputer Applications. These prerequisites may be accepted from other universities and should be taken prior to entering the graduate program.

Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each four-year college or university from which credit was received
- three letters of reference from professionals competent to assess the applicant’s interest in pursuing a career or advancing in the field of study
- written statement of purpose indicating ability and interest in completing the degree program
- current résumé

Once these materials are received by The Graduate College, the graduate advisor will schedule an interview to confirm the applicant’s ability and interest in not only pursuing, but completing, the program. Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. Applications are due February 15 for the fall semester.

Financial Assistance
For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education.

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