

College of Health Professions

Master of Science in Healthcare Information Systems (HIS)

The Healthcare Information Systems (HIS) degree makes it possible for healthcare providers to better manage patient care through secure use and sharing of healthcare information technology (HIT). Health IT includes the use of electronic health records (EHRs) instead of paper medical records to maintain people's health information.

Improving Patient Care

With the help of HIS, healthcare providers will have:

- Accurate and complete information about a patient's health. That way they can give the best possible care, whether during a routine visit or a medical emergency
- The ability to better coordinate the care they give. This is especially important if a patient has a serious medical condition
- A way to securely share information with patients and their family caregivers over the Internet, for patients who opt for this convenience. This means patients and their families can more fully take part in decisions about their healthcare
- Information to help them diagnose health problems sooner, reduces medical errors and provide safer care at lower costs

Improving Our Nation's Healthcare System

Widespread use of HIS can also:

- Make our healthcare system more efficient and reduce paperwork for patients and doctors
- Expand access to affordable care
- Build a healthier future for our nation

*The perfect blend: This program was created to serve working adults who have a very busy life!
The HIS at Sacred Heart University gives you the advantage of being able to work and collaborate with others in your cohort, yet offers the flexibility of the online/residency format.*

Program Design:

This unique program is specifically designed to maximize the number of potential career roles the HIS Professional will assume. Classes are a blend of online discussion and on-campus residency experiences. Students will attend on-campus classroom sessions and complete online work during the semester.

Sacred Heart University

- SHU is the second-largest Catholic university in New England with over 6,000 in attendance.
- The *Princeton Review* includes SHU among the Best 376 Colleges, while *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges* ranks SHU in the top tier of Master's Universities in the North in its annual college rankings.
- Sacred Heart University is set on 71 acres in suburban Fairfield, Connecticut, ranked in the top places to live in the Northeast and #9 in the country in *Money* magazine's list of "Best Places to Live." Fairfield is 90 minutes from Manhattan and 150 minutes from Boston.



Master of Science in Healthcare Information Systems

UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES – *Why you should consider Sacred Heart University*

What You Will Gain:

- Practical knowledge and skills and an understanding of how information technology, people, health and the healthcare system **interrelate and to use information technology** and information management concepts and methods in healthcare delivery
- The ability to **communicate effectively with clinicians, administrators and IT professionals** and to understand each of their needs and constraints
- The opportunity to **learn from students** with backgrounds in **healthcare or technology**—nurses, pharmacists, physicians, programmers, project managers, analysts and others - whether you are a healthcare professional in need of the technical knowledge to take on new responsibilities or a computing and IT professional who needs to understand how to apply technology in a healthcare environment

Whether you want to take on new responsibilities in your current workplace or launch a new career, Sacred Heart University's graduate degree in Healthcare Information Systems prepares you for leadership and specialist roles in a variety of health-related organizations. And you're ready to make an immediate impact on healthcare.

Improving the healthcare system calls for integrating innovative technology in patient care, yet there's a critical shortage of qualified people who can use this technology and communicate effectively with both health providers and IT professionals



Why Sacred Heart University's MSHIS?

- Faculty are senior leaders in the field and have extensive experience in hospitals and other major healthcare organizations
- Strong industry relationships with hospitals, healthcare systems, health-related corporations and government health agencies
- An advisory board of industry professionals who provide expert guidance in the programs' development
- Flexible course schedules and form designed to meet the needs of both working professionals and full-time students
- Courses will be held in in-person hybrid (HY) or online (OL) format. The hybrid courses are held in "real time" either in person or similar real time electronic format (e.g., Skype, e-conference, etc.).
- SHU has the first and only graduate program in Healthcare Information Systems in Connecticut

Online Learning:

Recognizing the busy schedules of the healthcare information technology professional, the program will offer a combination of on-ground, online and hybrid formats. Courses will be offered in an 'executive' format that includes online work coupled with weekend intensive sessions.



Faculty:

- Senior leaders in their fields
- Have extensive, practical experience in healthcare information technology systems
- Are subject matter experts in their discipline
- Bring real-world experiences to the classroom
- Hold executive positions in their field
- Make considerable contributions to Healthcare Technology

Prerequisite Coursework:

Prior to embarking on the core curriculum, students will be required to demonstrate a level of technical and healthcare industry knowledge via resume showing prior significant and practical experience as well as online test and/or transcript from an accredited institution. For those without adequate industry or technical knowledge, the appropriate foundation class will be required. Applicants will be required to have either healthcare or technology experience and therefore will typically not have to take more than one foundation course.

Coursework:

The program is 36 credits. All students will be required to take 27 credits of core classes, 6 credits of electives, and 3 credits for one prerequisite course if the student lacks either healthcare or technology experience.

Required Core Courses
Healthcare Information Systems Foundations
Healthcare Industry and Policy
Workflow Design & Reengineering
Effective Communications
Leading and Influencing with Integrity
The Business of Healthcare Information Systems
Evidence-Based Practice & Clinical Decision Support
Healthcare Information Exchange
Capstone Project
Elective Courses (select two electives)
Project Management
Electronic Health Records
Healthcare Information Systems
Dynamics of Information Technology
Emerging Technologies
Healthcare IT Security & Privacy
Legal Aspects of Healthcare Information Technology



ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Master of Science in Healthcare Information Systems is competitive. Applications can be submitted online along with submitting the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Proof of bachelor's degree
- Essay: *Why do you want to pursue the Sacred Heart University HIS program*
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Student loans, deferred payment plans and a variety of other programs are available through the Office of Financial Assistance.

For links to the FAFSA and Graduate Confidential forms please go to:

http://www.sacredheart.edu/pages/774_forms.cfm

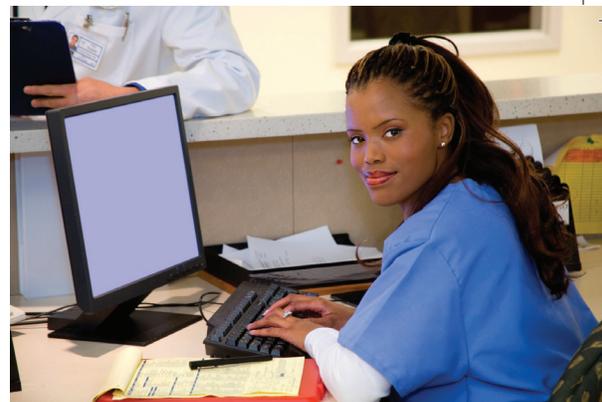


WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH MORE QUESTIONS?

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Please also visit our website for the most up-to-date information on our graduate programs, news and events: www.sacredheart.edu/graduate.cfm



EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Employment of health information technicians is expected to increase by 20 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. With increasing use of electronic health records, more technicians will be needed to complete the new responsibilities associated with electronic data management.

This program is in response to the **growing national healthcare industry crisis**. National health expenditures have grown consistently from 16% of GDP in 1960 to an estimated 17.2% in 2010. Add in an increase of about 0.7% population growth and inflation of about 4.5% per year, and the nation is forced to find smarter ways of managing the healthcare industry.

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department is looking towards **health information technology as part of the solution** as evidenced by setting aside \$23.8B in the Health Reform package for that sector.

Additional support has been directed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) when it awarded over \$800 million in grants to develop education and training programs for Health IT leads in jobs recovery- **17,000 new positions added in November 2011 alone.**

