



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

NURSING INFORMATICS

**Student Welcome Packet
2024-2025**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS	3
UMSON NURSING INFORMATICS FACULTY MEMBERS	4
GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING INFORMATICS	7
Vision and Mission Statement	7
BECOMING A NURSING INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL	8
Nursing Informatics Scope and Standards of Practice	8
Certification in Nursing Informatics	8
Nursing Informatics Professional Organizations	8
GETTING STARTED	10
Orientation	10
Policies, Procedures, Services, and Resources	10
The UMSON Nursing Informatics Listserv	10
myUMB ID Account	11
How to Obtain myUMB ID	11
Office 365 and Email	11
Student User Friendly System (SURFS)	11
UMB One Card (Student ID)	11
Obtain a Parking Permit	12
Compliance Tracking	12
Blackboard Access for Web-Based Courses	12
Purchasing Textbooks	12
Access to HS/HSL Resources	12
Degree Works	12
EXXAT System/PRISM	13
REGISTERING FOR COURSES	14
PLANNING YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDY	15
PRACTICUM HOURS	16
SCHOLARLY PROJECT/PAPER	16
MSN AND NI CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS	17
Course Scheduling and Sequencing	17
MSN NURSING INFORMATICS FULL-TIME PLAN OF STUDY	18
MSN NURSING INFORMATICS PART-TIME PLAN OF STUDY	19
NURSING INFORMATICS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM PLAN OF STUDY	20



WELCOME FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Welcome to the Nursing Informatics program at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON). Although we may be separated by distance, our faculty, staff, and students form a close community. We are delighted that you are now one of us.

Whether you have been working in nursing informatics or are new to the field, your time in the program will be one of transition. You will acquire new perspectives on the uses of knowledge and information in nursing practice and on the information technologies that support those uses. You will be moving to a higher level of professional practice as you master the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and role of the informatics nurse specialist. You will become a contributing member of the nursing informatics community in our program, locally, nationally, and internationally.

The UMSON faculty and I are committed to helping you to succeed and grow professionally. We will demand a great deal from you, and we will support your efforts to reach your goals. We hope you will contact us when you have questions or concerns, not only about your courses, but also about your career and your professional life. We know that life circumstances and work obligations sometimes pose challenges to adult learners. Please let us know if situations arise that might require special consideration.

We have prepared this packet to help you get acquainted with our program and to provide information and resources for getting started. There is much more information on UMSON's website. If you can't find the answers you need, please ask one of us.

With best wishes for a fulfilling student experience,



Cheryl Fisher

Cheryl A. Fisher, EdD, MSN, RN
Specialty Co-Director, Associate Professor
Nursing Informatics Program
Organizational Systems & Adult Health
University of Maryland School of Nursing

Charlotte Seckman

Charlotte Seckman, PhD, RN, NI-BC, CNE, FAAN
Specialty Co-Director, Associate Professor
Nursing Informatics Program
Organizational Systems & Adult Health
University of Maryland School of Nursing

UMSON NURSING INFORMATICS FACULTY MEMBERS

	<p>Cheryl A. Fisher, EdD, MSN, RN, <i>Associate Professor and Specialty Co-Director of the Nursing Informatics Program</i> has a clinical research background focused on teaching with technology, translating evidence into health care practices for the bedside nurse, and evaluating the integration of technology into practice. Dr. Fisher teaches the introductory and the senior level informatics courses in the program at UMSON. Dr. Fisher developed new programs for a clinical setting to meet identified learning needs using computer-based training and competency validation. While working at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Fisher worked to design, develop, implement, and evaluate innovative technologies in conjunction with the National Library of Medicine to integrate a personalized decision support system into the electronic medical record to enhance patient care. Dr. Fisher has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles looking at student learning online and co-authored, “Developing Online Courses in Nursing Education”, now in its fourth edition. Dr. Fisher has also published <i>Training Essentials for Implementing Healthcare IT in Health Care Information Technology</i>. Dr. Fisher has taught nursing informatics in undergraduate and graduate levels for 10 years and has mentored many graduate students in evidence-based practice projects using technology in the clinical setting.</p>
	<p>Charlotte Seckman, PhD, RN, NI-BC, CNE, FAAN, <i>Associate Professor and Specialty Co-Director of the Nursing Informatics Program</i> is a board-certified informatics nurse with a doctorate in informatics research, a master’s in nursing education, a master’s certificate in Aging and Applied Thanatology with advanced training in Artificial Intelligence. As a leader in nursing informatics, with over 30 years of experience, Dr. Seckman’s work focuses on improving care using innovative and emerging technologies and is recognized nationally and internationally through numerous publications, presentations, and book chapters. She has extensive experience in the analysis, design, testing, implementation, and evaluation of a variety of electronic health record systems in both the government and private sectors. At the National Institutes of Health, she served as a project officer for the implementation of the Clinical Research Information System and director for EHR support, change management processes, informatics education, evaluation, and research projects. In collaboration with the National Library of Medicine, she was instrumental in the design and implementation of a prototype system for providing evidence-based resources for nurses at the point of care. At UMSON, Dr. Seckman coordinates, develops, and teaches master’s and DNP nursing informatics courses, mentors, and advises graduate level students, and prepares future generations of nurses with informatics competencies for leadership roles in health care. Her research interests focus on artificial intelligence, translating evidence into health care practices, developing personalized clinical decision support tools, optimizing EHR systems, reducing documentation burden, evaluating online learning modalities, and exploring informatics competencies to prepare a ready workforce.</p>



Arpad Kelemen, PhD, Professor, has expertise in biomedical informatics, EHR and healthcare database development, optimization and evaluation, healthcare software, game development, human-computer interaction, intelligent patient care technologies with artificial intelligence, and data mining of large healthcare data. Dr. Kelemen has published over 50 peer reviewed papers and two books titled "Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics" and "Computational Intelligence in Medical Informatics". He was PI on a HRSA grant, "Nursing informatics program focused on diversity and the underserved". In addition, he has received funding from NSF, NIH, NYSTAR, and the U.S. NAVY. He developed a large-scale intelligent software agent for human-like decision making for job assignments and job satisfaction. He develops models, algorithms, and intelligent systems for large-scale biomedical data, including healthcare, genomic, and clinical data. He currently leads the development of educational and patient-centered online healthcare games.



Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Associate Dean of the PhD Program. Dr. Nahm's research focuses on the use of digital health interventions to engage older patients and their caregivers and community-dwelling older adults in their care to promote the management of chronic conditions. She is a recipient of multiple grant awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Recently, she completed an R21 study, "A Theory-Based Patient Portal eLearning Program for Older Adults with Chronic Illnesses," funded by the AHRQ. Currently, Dr. Nahm is leading online cancer survivorship studies in collaboration with the clinicians at the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMNursing Grant) and a 5-year implementation grant project, *Care Coordination Education-to-Practice Scale-Up Implementation* funded by the Nurse Support Program II. Most recently, she was awarded an NSP II grant to develop a Real-World Data and Pragmatic Research certificate program for doctoral students. She has published more than 75 peer-reviewed journal articles and five book chapters in the field, presented at regional, national, and international scientific conferences, and serves as a reviewer for grant study sections and journals. Dr. Nahm teaches masters-level nursing informatics courses, doctoral-level research courses, and mentors graduate and doctoral students, as well as junior faculty members.



Ernest Opoku-Agyemang, PhD, MA, RN, Assistant Professor, has expertise in supporting and implementing information systems in healthcare, finance, e-business, and e-commerce. Dr. Opoku served as a Senior Systems Test Engineer on the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) Medicare Management Information System for the State of Michigan. Prior work focused on the financial industry as a consultant on the Order Audit Trail System (OATS) for the NASDAQ stock market. Dr. Opoku is the recipient of the prestigious British Drummond Wolff award for his MA degree at University of Hull (UK). He was a recipient of the MHEC Nursing Educator Doctoral Grants for Practice and Dissertation Research (NEDG) and the New Nursing Faculty Scholarship. Areas of interest include electronic health records and barcode computerized medication administration (BCMA). He received his PhD from UMSON with a research focus on using mobile applications in managing chronic diseases.



Cory Stephens, DNP, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS. Assistant Professor. Dr. Stephens joined UMSON from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he developed custom clinical decision support (CDS) in support of clinical research, modernized an in-person EHR training program to one that is role-based and accessible anywhere in an online learning management system (LMS), implemented a mobile EHR application, designed another mobile app for nurses and other clinicians to access reference materials, guided the development of a homegrown telehealth program at the start of the pandemic, pushed the organization forward in its adoption of [M365 applications](#) by teaching nurses, other clinicians, and staff how and why to use modern communication and collaboration tools such as Microsoft Teams, Bookings, and Forms, and taught nurses and other IT staff how to easily optimize and automate workflows using Power Automate. While at the NIH, Dr. Stephens greatly enjoyed precepting nursing informatics graduate students and preparing them for successful careers. He completed his ASN from Ivy Tech Community College, BSN from Indiana University, and MSN from Walden University. Also at Walden University, Dr. Stephens completed his DNP focused on strategies for nurse leaders to promote the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) like Microsoft Teams into nursing practice. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge and passion for technologies that support nursing practice with faculty, staff, and students as Assistant Professor in the MSN Nursing Informatics Specialty. To learn more about his experience and engage with his work online, Dr. Stephens welcomes you to add him to your network on [LinkedIn](#).



Barbara Van de Castle, DNP, OCN, RN, NI-BC, Assistant Professor, is a board-certified informatics nurse. Prior to coming to the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), Dr. Van de Castle was a nurse educator in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital where she supported oncology clinicians in the use EHRs to improve workflow and patient outcomes. At UMSON, Dr. Van de Castle teaches in the Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) program and is one of the course directors for the DNP Project courses. Her work focuses on data stewardship, quality improvement, social determinants of health, and global health informatics.



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING INFORMATICS

Vision and Mission Statement

VISION

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) will be a leading academic program in nursing informatics and renowned for its educational programs and research focused on the use of informatics solutions to optimize health outcomes.

UMSON will be recognized for leadership and excellence in education, health information technology policy, research, and health informatics applications on the national and international levels.

MISISON

Our mission encompasses education, research, health information technology policy, and application.

Education

- UMSON will offer exceptional and rigorous educational programs for nursing informatics practice, scholarship, and research.
- All nursing informatics graduates will have knowledge and skill in the foundations for contemporary health informatics practice.

Research

- UMSON will support research conducted by nursing informatics faculty members and students will advance knowledge and practice in the informatics domain.
- Success and excellence in research among nursing informatics faculty members and students will be demonstrated by external funding and scholarly activities.

Health Information Technology Policy

- Nursing informatics faculty members and students will use informatics resources to further social and informatics-related policies by collaborating with professional, government, and non-governmental organizations.
- Nursing informatics faculty members and students will participate in the development, advocacy, and evaluation of health information technology policy on the local, national, and international levels.

Application

- Nursing informatics faculty members and students will apply informatics solutions in support of quality, safety, outcomes, and evidence-based practice.

BECOMING A NURSING INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL

Nursing Informatics Scope and Standards of Practice

As a nursing informatics student, you should purchase the *Nursing Informatics Scope and Standards of Practice (current edition)*. This booklet will be required in some of your courses and is available through the American Nurses Association website (<http://nursingworld.org>) and other online book stores.

Certification in Nursing Informatics

Certification in nursing informatics is not required to practice. It does, however, attest to your expertise and may provide an advantage in employment and advancement. There are currently two organizations offering certification for informatics nurse specialists:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center at <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/informatics-nurse/>
- Health Information Management Systems Society at <https://www.himss.org/resources-certification/overview>

Your program faculty members respect both organizations and do not endorse either in preference to the other.

Nursing Informatics Professional Organizations

As a nursing informatics student, you may want to consider joining one or more of the following organizations. Many offer a discounted student rate to encourage you to get involved early in your career.

- **American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)** at <http://www.amia.org>
 - AMIA's Nursing Informatics Working Group provides excellent professional development and networking opportunities. (<http://www.amia.org>)
 - AMIA offers a low student membership rate of \$50 per calendar year (for students living within the U.S.) with proof of full-time matriculation.
 - AMIA offers student discount rates to meetings, discounts to special non- AMIA meetings, and other resources (<https://www.amia.org/membership/student-center>)
- **American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA)**
 - ANIA membership gives you access to a network of over 2,200 informatics professionals in all 50 states and 34 countries.
 - The organization has an active e-mail list and job bank with employee-paid postings.
 - ANIA offers a student membership option, which is \$40 for one year. <https://www.ania.org/membership>

- ***Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society*** (HIMSS) at <http://www.himss.org>
 - The national organization and state chapters provide excellent professional development and networking opportunities.
 - HIMSS awards seven scholarships to select HIMSS student members who have demonstrated academic achievement.
(<https://foundation.himss.org/Scholarships>)
 - HIMSS offers a low student membership rate of \$30 with proof of full-time matriculation.

- ***Alliance for Nursing Informatics*** (ANI) at <http://www.allianceni.org>
 - The member organizations are the many nursing specialty organizations that recognize informatics as an important dimension of, or influence upon, nursing practice.
 - Sponsored by the AMIA and HIMSS, the alliance provides a unified voice for nursing informatics and an organizational home for the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform (TIGER) initiative.
<https://www.himss.org/what-we-do-initiatives>
 - The alliance is an organization composed of many organizations and does not have individual memberships.

GETTING STARTED

Orientation

Virtual orientation is highly recommended for all students. The orientation covers various aspects of registration and provides a checklist of items you will need to complete. Visit our Virtual Orientation Center at <https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/admissions/accepted/orientation/>

Policies, Procedures, Services, and Resources

- The UMSON Student Handbook is accessible online at <http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/handbook/>.
- The handbook includes policies followed by all UMSON courses, as well as in-depth information about UMSON procedures, services, and resources.
- The UMSON Student Life webpage is a resource for students and has information about campus services and resources. (<http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/>)

The UMSON Nursing Informatics Listserv

All students in the Nursing Informatics specialty are encouraged to subscribe to the NI listserv. This is our main line of communication. Students, faculty members, and alumni belong to the listserv. We post questions, exchange ideas, and provide information about job opportunities.

To subscribe to the son_nilist:

- Send an e-mail to sympa@lists.umaryland.edu from the address you want to subscribe to the list.
- In the subject line, put: Subscribe son_ni <Your Name>

To unsubscribe from the son_nilist:

- Send an e-mail to sympa@lists.umaryland.edu from the address you want to unsubscribe from the list.
- In the subject line, put: Unsubscribe son_ni

myUMB ID Account

The myUMB ID is a single sign-on system designed to allow access to multiple UMB systems. Some of the systems that use the myUMB ID include:

- myUMB Portal
- Office 365 (*e-Mail, etc.*)
- Blackboard (*Courses*)
- STEPS/Exxat
- SURFS (*Registration*)
- Degree Works (*Plans of Study*)
- Campus Wireless System
- HS/HSL Resources (*Library*)

How to Obtain myUMB ID

- For information on how to obtain a myUMB ID account, please visit [UMID Login Reference - Center for Information Technology Services \(umaryland.edu\)](#).
- If you need further assistance, please visit the IT Helpdesk information page at: <http://www.umaryland.edu/helpdesk/>.
- The IT Helpdesk can assist you with UMB One Card services, myUMB email accounts, User IDs and passwords, and SURFS.

Make sure to set up the **Duo-Authentication** feature when you create your account for added security. This can be linked to your phone and will provide a passcode, or it can send a “push” to automatically link when you accept the message. Instructions are found at <https://www.umaryland.edu/cits/services/duo/>

Office 365 and Email

Students can use their UMB ID username and ID to sign-on to Office 365 which provides access to email and a variety of other MS office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.).

You must use your UMB email account to communicate with faculty and staff.

Student User Friendly System (SURFS)

SURFS is a Web-based companion to UMB’s Student Information Management System. The SURFS webpage provides current students with online, real-time information about their student records. Students use SURFS to register for courses, review registration status, check final course grades and academic record, request transcripts, find financial aid information and pay account balance. SURFS is located at <http://www.umaryland.edu/surfs/>.

UMB One Card (Student ID)

Face-to-face and distance learning students can also get a student ID card. This card is useful to access University facilities online and on campus, as well as for obtaining student discounts for conferences, professional memberships, and educational materials. Please visit the UMB One Card website for instructions on how to obtain the ID card at <http://www.umaryland.edu/onecard/>

Obtain a Parking Permit

The student parking lot is located at the Lexington Garage, 680 W. Lexington Street. Parking permits are processed through the parking website at <http://www.umaryland.edu/parking/student-parking/>

Compliance Tracking

In order to be compliant with UMSON and UMB's Student Health, please make sure that you complete compliance items required for admissions, including drug screening and background check. (Refer to the Admissions Letter and Compliance Requirements at <https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/admissions/accepted>. Although you are a distance student, these records MUST be kept up to date in order to complete your practicum requirements in a physical setting.

Blackboard Access for Web-Based Courses

Go to the UMB Blackboard site, <http://blackboard.umaryland.edu/> and log in using your myUMB ID. Courses you are registered for will automatically display. *Please note: Web-based courses are open for student access the first day of the semester. Some courses may open one week before the class starts to provide access to the syllabus and announcements only.*

If you have trouble logging into Blackboard, e-mail tech support at help@umaryland.edu or call 410- 706-HELP (4357). If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, review the Student Blackboard FAQ's at <https://www.umaryland.edu/blackboard/student-topics/>.

Purchasing Textbooks

Use the UMB Bookstore website to order or find out what textbooks are needed for a specific course at <https://umb.bncollege.com/course-material/course-finder>, Enter the term, department (NURS or NRSG), course number, and section. You can order books for delivery or on-campus pick-up.

Access to HS/HSL Resources

Internet access to library resources, including e-journals, e-books, electronic reserves, and databases, requires you to use your myUMB ID and password to log onto the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) resources from off-campus. Students must be enrolled in a credit course to have access to online resources. More information is available on the library's website, <http://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/>.

Degree Works

Degree Works is a degree audit and advising system to help students and advisors develop a personalized **Plan of Study** for the program and keep track of student progress. The program includes a summary of the student's academic information bridged from the "SURFS - Banner Student" section. Students can access the program via the link found on the Student Life section of the UMSON website. <https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/>

EXXAT System/PRISM

All students registered in the MSN program must have an account in the UMSON placement system called PRISM (formerly known as STEPS). The system is owned by EXXAT, a company that provides health profession education and placement management. Students will use this system to track and document practicum hours associated with various courses. At the beginning of your program, you will receive an e-mail from the vendor about setting up your account. (Note: Practicum hours are discussed on page 16).

Account Set-Up:

1. Check your compliance status. Students must be compliant to complete practicum assignments.
2. Activate your PRISM account. Shortly, you will receive an email in your @umaryland.edu account from EXXAT to activate your account (EXXAT is the company that owns program). Use your UMID login and password.
3. Set up your account by XXXX (the school will tell you the date). If you do not receive an email (check junk/spam folder).
4. Complete your student profile. All profiles must include your address and phone number
5. After activating your account, please review the online training available in PRISM.
6. Attend the online training session on [TBD]. An email with more details will be sent closer to the training date.

Use During Practicum:

- Timesheets: Log your practicum hours in PRISM as instructed by your course faculty/facilitator.
- Expected documentation on timesheets will vary by course and type of practicum activities.
- All required hours must be approved by a preceptor or course faculty member by the end of the semester.
- Practicum timesheets will be collected and calculated in PRISM across courses to determine if all hours for the program graduation requirements are complete.

REGISTERING FOR COURSES

When you are admitted, **develop your Plan of Study by consulting with your advisor**. Each semester, review the plan of study with your advisor during the advisement period to determine the courses for which you should register in the upcoming semester. Watch the academic calendar for important dates related to registration deadlines

<https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/academics/calendars-events/>

To explore the registration process, go to <http://www.umaryland.edu/surfs> and click on the **Class Schedule**. Here you can “view only” courses that will be offered during select semesters.

To register online, go to <http://www.umaryland.edu/surfs> and click in the box labeled **Login to SURFS**.

- Follow instructions to login.
- Click **Student Records**.
- Click **Registration**.
- Click **Select Term** and choose the desired semester. (Only one semester can be registered for at a time).
- Click **Submit**
- Click **Register, Add/Drop Classes** and then scroll down to the **Add Classes Worksheet** section.
- Enter the CRN number(s) for your desired course(s) and section(s).
- If you are unsure of the CRN numbers, use the **Class Search** option to find your desired classes. You may either a) copy down the CRN number and enter into the Add Classes Worksheet or b) Select the box next to the CRN number and choose **Register** or **Add to Worksheet**.
- Click **Submit Changes** and your courses will appear in the **Student Detail Schedule** area.

You might encounter the following registration errors:

- Time conflict – You have selected classes that meet at the same time.
- Closed Section – Course is full and closed for further registration.
- Class Restriction – You are not eligible to register for the course.
- Holds – Student Health, Foreign Student, and Student Accounts place holds. Contact the appropriate office to have the hold removed.
- Course Pre-requisites – You have not met the requirements to register for this course.

Don't forget to print your schedule. Click “Student Schedule by Day and Time” for a quick table format or click “Student Detail Schedule” for a more detailed version.

If you have questions, call the registration hotline at 410-706-2799.

PLANNING YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDY

Web-Based Learning

Web-based courses are designed as "anytime, anywhere" learning environments offered via the Internet using a Web browser. You will engage in course content and communicate with peers and instructors online. Therefore, you must have access to a computer with Internet connectivity, and you will need to plan your learning time to fit your schedule. Each online course is a different experience, implementing various instructional strategies best suited for varying content and learning styles. Students taking a three-credit course should spend at least six hours online each week to:

- View online lectures and presentations with audio/video
- Explore course-related Internet sites
- Engage in discussions and post messages
- Collaborate with other students during group projects
- Participate in scholarly work using electronic library resources
- Complete and submit course assignments

The main benefits of distance education are convenience, flexibility, and the freedom to take courses where you want on a more relaxed schedule than in a traditional course. Course content is divided into modules, which students are expected to digest on a set schedule. However, students can choose when and where to complete each module before the deadline. Although you have more freedom in completing assignments, there may be occasions when you are required to interact with your instructor or classmates asynchronously (i.e. discussion board, email, etc.) and/or pre-scheduled synchronous sessions (i.e. video conferencing). Since you will be interacting with others remotely and will be more responsible for your schedule than a traditional student, online students must be able to:

- Be self-motivated and actively engaged in learning opportunities
- Develop and maintain your own schedule for completing coursework
- Write clearly, effectively, and respectfully
- Adapt to working in a new learning environment
- Learn new computer skills to complete assignments

As an online nursing informatics student, we also encourage you to explore available resources and training materials offered by UMSON to include:

1. Explore the UMSON website and familiarize yourself with the **TECH Tools** and other student resources. Visit <https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/> for more information.
2. Make sure your computer hardware and software meet requirements for participating in online learning. Some courses will require video conferencing, so a camera, microphone, and high-speed internet equipment is needed. See above link for Laptop Requirements.

PRACTICUM HOURS

Policies and procedures for practicum experiences are discussed extensively in the Student Handbook related to UMSON and placement compliance requirements, student and site responsibilities, dress code, and academic performance which also applies to MSN Nursing Informatics program (for details see <https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/handbook/>)

Practicum Hours

Many of your courses will have “*practicum*” hours which involves application of informatics concepts and processes related to real-world experiences at a practice site. Practicum hours may vary, depending on the course, and are connected to a “*signature assignment*” that may or may not require direct supervision at the practicum site. Please note the following:

- Practicum hours in the NI program are considered “*non-clinical*” hours in that you do not interact with patients or perform direct patient care.
- Practicum hours occur in a designated facility with an experienced preceptor in the field of informatics. The practicum site is not limited to hospital settings but could occur in clinics, consulting firms, software vendors, or anywhere healthcare technology is utilized.
- Practicum placements are coordinated by the Admissions Placement Office and the NI Specialty Director (with student input) prior to the beginning of the course.
- Practicum placements require a contractual agreement with the facility so this may take time to coordinate.
- **If you live in a state other than Maryland or in another country**, discuss your potential practicum site with the NI Specialty Program Director early in your program.

SCHOLARLY PROJECT/PAPER

All master’s students must produce a manuscript acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Publication is not required but students will be encouraged to take this next step to enhance their resume and career options. The scholarly project/paper evaluates the student’s overall synthesis of the master’s degree content and knowledge including 1) interrelationships of concepts; 2) knowledge and use of theoretical/conceptual bases for nursing informatics practice 3) knowledge of the research process and application to nursing or health problems; 4) the ability to synthesize evidence, organize thoughts, and present them in an orderly manner.

The scholarly paper topic must be pre-approved by an assigned faculty reviewer and must be completed within the required timeframe for the student to graduate. NI MSN students will automatically be added to a Blackboard Course with a timeline and extensive instructions on completing the project/paper. Although this requirement is not associated with a specific course it is usually completed in the last semester during the final practicum course. Students will be required to disseminate/present their project at a virtual symposium (arranged by NI Faculty) to receive the final five practicum hours in the program to graduate.

MSN AND NI CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Course Scheduling and Sequencing

Course sequencing and Plans of Study were revised starting in the 2024-2025 academic year. Note: For students who began the program prior to Fall 2025 see the 2023-24 New Student Welcome Packet

The **Nursing Core Courses** may be taken in any sequence:

Course		Offered
NRSB 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	Fall, Spring, Summer
NRSB 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership/Quality Improvement	Fall, Spring, Summer
NRSB 784	Evaluating the Evidence w/Statistical Interpretation	Fall, Spring, Summer

The **Management Courses** can be taken together or NRSB 685 as a pre-requisite for NRSB 687:

Course		Offered
NRSB 685	Financial Management for Nurse Leaders*	Fall, Spring
NRSB 687	Organizational and Systems Leadership in Healthcare	Fall, Spring

The **Informatics Courses** follow a sequence and have several pre-requisites as noted below.

Course		Offered
NRSB 781	Essentials in Healthcare Informatics	Fall, Spring
NRSB 787	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	Spring
NRSB 789	Project Management for Healthcare Information and Communication Technologies	Fall
NRSB 783	Health Care Database Systems	Summer
NRSB 737	Practicum in Nursing/Healthcare Informatics I**	Fall
NRSB 739	Practicum in Nursing/Healthcare Informatics II ***	Spring
NRSB 786	Artificial Intelligence and Big Data	Fall

Some courses have co-requisites or prerequisites

*NRSB687 is a Pre or Co-requisite for NRSB685

**NRSB 737 Pre-requisites= NRSB784, NRSB780, NRSB782, NRSB785, NRSB781, NRSB783, NRSB787

***NRSB 739 Pre-requisites= NRSB784, NRSB780, NRSB782, NRSB785, NRSB 781, NRSB783, NRSB787, NRSB737

The plans of study for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program offer full-time or part-time study with spring or fall matriculation. Military and international students may require plans of study that meet regulatory requirements and should be constructed in concert with the academic advisor and relevant regulatory agency official to ensure compliance with requirements. The plans of study for the Nursing Informatics Certificate program offer both part-time and full-time study with spring or fall matriculation

MSN NURSING INFORMATICS FULL-TIME PLAN OF STUDY

FALL MATRICULATION

FALL (Semester 1)

NRSNG 784	Evaluating the Evidence/ Statistical Interpretation	3
NRSNG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRSNG 781	Essential in HC Informatics*	3

SPRING (Semester 2)

NRSNG 782	Health Systems/Health Policy: Leadership and QI	3
NRSNG 787	Systems Analysis and Design	3(90)
NRSNG 687	Organizational and Systems Leadership in HC	3(45)

SUMMER (Semester 3)

NRSNG 783	Healthcare Database Systems	3(45)
-----------	-----------------------------	-------

FALL (Semester 4)

NRSNG 786	Artificial Intelligence/Big Data	3
NRSNG 789	Project Management for HC Infor/Comm Technology	3
NRSNG 737	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics 1***	3(135)

SPRING (Semester 5)

NRSNG 739	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics II****	3(135)
NRSNG 685	Financial Management for Nurse Leaders**	3(45)
TOTAL Credit Hours		36
TOTAL Practicum Hours		(500)♦

♦Includes 5 hours for NI Scholarly project dissemination

SPRING MATRICULATION

SPRING (Semester 1)

NRSNG 784	Evaluating the Evidence/ Statistical Interpretation	3
NRSNG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRSNG 781	Essential in HC Informatics*	3

SUMMER (Semester 2)

NRSNG 783	Health Care Database Systems	3(45)
-----------	------------------------------	-------

FALL (Semester 3)

NRSNG 786	Artificial Intelligence/Big Data	3
NRSNG 685	Financial Management for Nurse Leaders**	3(45)
NRSNG 687	Organizational and Systems Leadership in HC	3(45)

SPRING (Semester 4)

NRSNG 787	Systems Analysis and Design	3(90)
NRSNG 782	Health Systems/Health Policy: Leadership and QI	3

FALL (Semester 5)

NRSNG 789	Project Management for HC Infor/Comm Technology	3
NRSNG 737	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics 1***	3(135)

SPRING (Semester 6)

NRSNG 739	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics II****	3(135)
TOTAL Credit Hours		36
TOTAL Practicum Hours		(500)♦

*NRSNG784 is Prerequisite or Corequisite to NRSNG781

**NRSNG687 Prerequisite or Corequisite to NRSNG685

***NRSNG737 Prerequisites = NRSNG784, NRSNG780, NRSNG782, NRSNG785, NRSNG781, NRSNG783, NRSNG787

****NRSNG739 Prerequisites = NRSNG784, NRSNG780, NRSNG782, NRSNG785, NRSNG781, NRSNG783, NRSNG787, NRSNG737

MSN NURSING INFORMATICS PART-TIME PLAN OF STUDY

FALL MATRICULATION

FALL (Semester 1)

NRS 784	Evaluating the Evidence with Statistical Interpretation	3
NRS 782	Health Systems/Health Policy: Leadership and QI	3

SPRING (Semester 2)

NRS 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRS 781	Essential in HC Informatics*	3

SUMMER (Semester 3)

NRS 783	Healthcare Database Systems	3(45)
---------	-----------------------------	-------

FALL (Semester 4)

NRS 786	Artificial Intelligence/Big Data	3
NRS 687	Organizational and Systems Leadership in HC	3(45)

SPRING (Semester 5)

NRS 787	Systems Analysis and Design	3(90)
NRS 685	Financial Management for Nurse Leaders**	3(45)

FALL (Semester 6)

NRS 789	Project Management for HC Infor/Comm Technology	3
NRS 737	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics 1***	3(135)

SPRING (Semester 7)

NRS 739	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics II****	3(135)
TOTAL Credit Hours		36
TOTAL Practicum Hours		(500)♦

♦Includes 5 hours for NI Scholarly project dissemination

SPRING MATRICULATION

SPRING (Semester 1)

NRS 784	Evaluating the Evidence with Statistical Interpretation	3
NRS 782	Health Systems/Health Policy: Leadership and QI	3

SUMMER (Semester 2)

NRS 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
---------	--	---

FALL (Semester 3)

NRS 781	Essential in HC Informatics*	3
NRS 786	Artificial Intelligence/Big Data	3

SPRING (Semester 4)

NRS 687	Organizational and Systems Leadership in HC	3(45)
NRS 787	Systems Analysis and Design	3(90)

SUMMER (Semester 5)

NRS 783	Healthcare Database Systems	3(45)
---------	-----------------------------	-------

FALL (Semester 6)

NRS 789	Project Management for HC Infor/Comm Technology	3
NRS 737	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics 1***	3(135)

SPRING (Semester 7)

NRS 685	Financial Management for Nurse Leaders**	3(45)
NRS 739	Practicum in Nursing and Health Informatics II****	3(135)
TOTAL Credit Hours		36
TOTAL Practicum Hours		(500)♦

*NRS784 is Prerequisite or Corequisite to NRS781

**NRS687 Prerequisite or Corequisite to NRS685

***NRS737 Prerequisites = NRS784, NRS780, NRS782, NRS785, NRS781, NRS783, NRS787

****NRS739 Prerequisites = NRS784, NRS780, NRS782, NRS785, NRS781, NRS783, NRS787, NRS737

NURSING INFORMATICS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM PLAN OF STUDY

FALL MATRICULATION

FALL (Semester 1)

NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Gen Knowledge in Health Care	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

SPRING (Semester 2)

NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3
----------	--	---

SUMMER (Semester 3)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3
----------	------------------------------	---

FALL (Semester 4)

NURS 737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in System Adoption	3
-----------	--	---

SPRING (Semester 5)

NURS 738*	Practicum in Nursing Informatics	4
-----------	----------------------------------	---

TOTAL CREDITS 19

SPRING MATRICULATION

SPRING (Semester 1)

NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Gen Knowledge in Health Care	3

SUMMER (Semester 2)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3
----------	------------------------------	---

FALL (Semester 3)

NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3
NURS 737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in System Adoption	3

SPRING (Semester 4)

NURS738*	Practicum in Nursing Informatics	4
----------	----------------------------------	---

TOTAL CREDITS 19

*Denotes courses that must be taken in this program in this order. No waivers or transfer credits accepted.