



New England College

School of Graduate and Professional Studies

Master of Science: Health Information Management Program

NEW ONLINE PROGRAM BEGINS MARCH 20, 2011

New England College has grown our Master of Science in Management to include the exciting field of health information management. The healthcare industry has evolved significantly and rapidly over the last few years. While the adoption of software for data management in healthcare organizations had been limited to larger hospitals, in the recent period more mid-size and smaller health companies have adopted more sophisticated bioinformatics technologies. The adoption of these technologies often requires the organization to select vendors and consulting firms, and the process to identify the most appropriate technologies can be daunting. A number of professional groups need to address these challenges: from non-clinician specialists in informatics to nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and other groups. The foremost challenge for those working in this field is to become an efficient communication bridge between the IT enterprise and clinical leaders. The ideal professional in this context will be proficient in the vocabulary of both areas and will be a proficient resource in connecting the different stakeholders involved in health informatics.

Changes taking place as a result of changing patient demographics, increased costs, and technology advancement translated into a greater need to prepare a cadre of professionals ready to address these challenges. Furthermore, a federal government executive order in 2004 has called for a widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records within 10 years. The interoperable concept refers to the ability of a system or a product to work with other systems or products without special effort on the part of the customer. This is especially important as different departments in the same healthcare institution have frequently operated under different electronic data systems, and the communication across platforms has become a daunting task.

The program is targeted to professionals with varying levels of experience who are working in health informatics in healthcare institutions. Most of these professionals come from a technical, IT background, and have faced challenges to successfully develop management skills in addition to their technical proficiency. However, there is also a significant number of individuals with clinical background (nurses and pharmacists, among others) that have become increasingly involved in managing the health informatics area. As one of the major challenges that healthcare organizations face is connected to the selection, adoption, and implementation of health informatics programs and processes that will “speak to each other,” the program intends to prepare students to address these issues.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of completing this program, students will:

- Apply leadership, communication, and conflict resolution skills and concepts to identify, analyze and creatively solve complex organizational problems connected to the design and implementation of health informatics systems;
- Comprehend the challenges and opportunities of working effectively with other people across a wide array of departments, outside vendors, and individuals with diverse backgrounds who interact with health informatics systems;
- Understand the main principles and practices of healthcare data management and how information technology and systems can help interpret and use biomedical information across departmental units;
- Apply a broad range of interpersonal and project management skills to design processes and design and implement team and group projects to optimize performance.
- Develop expertise in all business aspects of health informatics: this includes departmental design and management, capital and operating budgeting, the art of the budget planning process, infrastructure design and strategic planning.

For more information on this or other graduate programs offered through New England College, on campus and on line, please contact us at 800.956.8465, graduateadmission@nec.edu