

# Student Handbook

PhD in Health Informatics

*Department of Health Services Administration and Policy*



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## Mission

- To educate undergraduate and graduate students in Health Information Management and Health Informatics
- To engage in activity that contributes to HIM and HI best practices
- To provide service to the university and the health care professional community

## Departmental Goals

- Educate students to become leaders in the health information management and health informatics professions
- Provide educational programs in Health Information Management and Health Informatics
- Provide leadership in education and professional service
- Promote the transition to the electronic health record (EHR) through curriculum innovations and advancement in practice
- Support life-long learning for faculty

## Welcome

Congratulations on pursuing your academic and career goals by obtaining a PhD in Health Informatics in the College of Public Health (CPH) at Temple University. You have chosen a dynamic and critical healthcare profession and the Health Informatics faculty are honored to guide your educational experience.

Many useful resources exist to support and enhance the effectiveness of your learning at the graduate level. However, the best resources and services in the world are useless to you if you do not know about them. Take the opportunity to review and become familiar with this Student Handbook, the [Temple University Graduate School Bulletin](#), and the [Health Services Administration and Policy website](#). Please note that the policies and procedures are subject to change during your course of study and it is your responsibility to keep abreast of these changes.

## Professional Program Description

### Doctor of Philosophy in Health Informatics

Prepare for research and leadership roles in clinical and healthcare organizations with the *Doctor of Philosophy in Health Informatics* from Temple University's [College of Public Health](#). This 45-credit doctoral degree program focuses on interprofessional education and practice research and is designed for students looking to pursue a career in academia or research in health informatics innovation.

Health Informatics is an interdisciplinary field incorporating healthcare, computer science and informatics, which prepares students to contribute to the field through research, teaching and exposure to practical health informatics challenges. Learn to use information technology and apply the theories and principles of computer and information science to develop customized tools for healthcare applications.

Develop knowledge and skills in advanced health informatics, electronic health records, global health, health data analysis, and health system development and implementation. Build strong partnerships with consumer groups, industrial collaborators and local healthcare communities and prepare to use health data in real time to solve current health problems.

The Health Informatics PhD program creates a learner experience that includes the following.

- o Clinical informatics
- o Global health
- o Interprofessional education
- o Machine learning
- o Public health
- o Team science
- o Translational science

Meet the increasing demand for research experience by developing and conducting independent research with faculty mentorship on cross-functional projects using state-of-the-art health informatics approaches. Learn grant writing, scientific writing and project management for publishing in journals and to prepare for a career in research after graduation.

## Summary of Requirements

Admissions requirements can be found on the

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/health-informatics-phd-hp-hlti-phd/cph-health-informatics-phd-admissions>.

To apply for the Health Informatics PhD program, you must have a bachelor's degree. Though a master's degree specifically in health informatics or computer science is not required, preference is given to applicants who have backgrounds in the health sciences and informatics, including data science, epidemiology, health communication, human computer interaction, informatics, medicine, nursing or a public health discipline.

### College Requirement

*College of Public Health Interdisciplinary Requirement HRPR 5001 is required for all graduate students in CPH – “Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions.” The course is a required pass/fail course, but students will not be charged additional tuition for the course as it is considered a 0-credit course; however, this is mandatory, and students will not be eligible for graduation unless the course is completed. Students will be added to Sutable, a gamification platform, to complete the requirements of the course. It is possible that one or more graduate courses students have will be embedding portions of the Sutable platform within courses, thereby minimizing any duplicative work.*

### Program Requirements

Students in the MSHI program are required to satisfy the following prerequisite (before graduation clearance): A grade of B- or better in all core courses and a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or above. All graduate students must adhere to the Temple University Graduate School policies to remain in good academic standing in the program.

## Academic Plan

To learn more about your academic plan, and future courses you will be required to enroll in, visit

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/health-informatics-phd-hp-hlti-phd/required-courses>

*General Program Requirements:*

***Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 45***

## ***Required Courses:***

### **Core Courses**

HIM 5212	Application Development in Public Health	3
HIM 5299	Introduction to Language Processing and Text Mining for Health Professionals	3
HIM 8112	Advanced Clinical Decision Support Systems	3
HIM 8129	Advanced Health Data Analytics	3
HIM 8216	Applications of Machine Learning for Health Informatics	3
HRPR 5001	Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions <sup>1</sup>	0

### **Research Methods Courses**

EPBI 8012	Multivariable Biostatistics	3
EPBI 8212	Grantsmanship in Health Research	3
HIM 8016	Principles and Practices of Health Informatics Research	3

### **Electives <sup>2</sup> 15**

Select electives in Health Informatics:

HIM 5114	Health Informatics Project Management
HIM 5127	Privacy and Security: Protecting Healthcare Data
HIM 5128	Health Data: Standards and Interoperability
HIM 5213	Informatics Solution Design and Development for Health

	Data and Its Applications	
HIM 5256	Global Health Informatics	
HIM 9082	Independent Study in Health Informatics	
Select electives in Health Policy:		
HPM 5006	Political and Economic Aspects of Health	
HPM 5016	Public Health Advocacy	
HPM 8005	Theor Hlth Policy Making	
HPM 8008	Health Economics	
HPM 8014	Comparative Health Policy	
Select electives in Research Methods:		
EPBI 8201	Structural Equation Modeling	
EPBI 8204	Multilev Mod in Int Res	
EPBI 8208	Data Management and Analysis	
HPM 8013	Research Methods in Health Policy	
POLS 8002	Qualitative Research Methods	
SBS 8001	Research Methods in Public Health	
<b>Research Courses</b> <sup>3</sup>		<b>6</b>
HIM 9994		
HIM 9998	Dissertation Proposal Research for Health Informatics	
HIM 9999		<sup>4</sup>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

- <sup>1</sup> This common College Core course is required of all incoming graduate students in the College of Public Health. It is available completely online and designed such that students can complete the modules at their own pace over the course of their degree program.
- <sup>2</sup> Students select electives in consultation with the faculty advisor or PhD Program Director. With approval, electives from outside of the department can be taken.
- <sup>3</sup> The Graduate School requires that students complete a minimum of 6 credits that include HIM 9994, HIM 9998, and HIM 9999. Of the 6 credits, at least 2 credits must be earned in HIM 9999.

Students enroll in HIM 9999 after their proposal is approved, taking at least 1 credit each term until the dissertation is defended and filed with the Graduate School. A minimum of 2 credits of HIM 9999 must be earned.

## Student/Professional Organizations

The HIM Division at Temple University prepares HIM and HI students not only academically but also professionally to meet the information management challenges in the healthcare industry. It is our goal to support students to meet these challenges and achieve their career aspiration; we encourage students to join and become active participants in several health information management professional associations. Below is a listing of those professionally organizations that we recommend the HIM student to join:

- American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) <http://www.ahima.org>
- Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA) <http://www.phima.org/aboutphima.html>
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (SePHIMA) <http://www.sephima.org/>
- American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) <https://amia.org/>

## Awards and Scholarship Opportunities

*Teaching and research assistantships may be available.*

## Accreditation

The PhD in Health Informatics Program is x

## Contact Information

Huanmei Wu, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair  
 Ritter Annex 525  
 215-204-8163  
[huanmei.wu@temple.edu](mailto:huanmei.wu@temple.edu)

Bari Dzomba, MS, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Program Director  
 Ritter Annex 529  
 215-204-1892  
[bari.dzomba@temple.edu](mailto:bari.dzomba@temple.edu)

To contact a faculty member, visit <https://cph.temple.edu/about/directory>, and refine your search by entering “Faculty” under “Type”, and “Health Services Administration and Policy” under “Department”.