

## **Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Science in Health Informatics Program**

### **Program Description**

Health Informatics is an interdisciplinary field and is of interest to many healthcare related fields. The combined Pharm.D./M.S. in Health Informatics degree program provides an opportunity to eligible and qualified Pharmacy students to pursue a Master of Science in Health Informatics degree concurrently with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The M.S. in Health Informatics program is offered through College of Professional Advancement of Mercer University in an online format. Students must apply separately for both degree programs and meet admission requirements for both programs.

In the combined Pharm.D./M.S. in Health Informatics program, students will integrate knowledge and skills from both health science and technology domains which builds their capacity to address modern challenges in healthcare ecosystems. Graduates of this combined program have a large range of professional opportunities across the healthcare and IT sectors. The M.S. in Health Informatics courses are designed to enable students to pursue both degrees without compromising the academic demands of the two disciplines.

### **Program Outcomes/Objectives**

The outcomes of the Pharm.D. degree program and the outcomes of the M.S. in Health Informatics program also apply to the combined Pharm.D./M.S. in Health Informatics program.

### **Admissions Requirements and Procedure**

Students must meet the admission requirements for the Pharm.D. program in the College of Pharmacy and for the M.S. in Health Informatics program in College of Professional Advancement of Mercer University. Please refer to the College of Pharmacy for admission requirements for the Pharm.D. program. Admission requirements for the M.S. in Health Informatics portion of the combined program are as follows:

- Students must have completed a bachelor's degree or a minimum of 120 undergraduate credit hours from a regionally accredited institution. (International or domestic students with credentials from outside the United States are required to have those credentials evaluated by a professional evaluation service per Pharm.D. admission requirements.)
- Students must have completed one year of healthcare or information technology (IT) work experience or equivalent prior to enrollment in the M.S. in Health Informatics program.
- Students must submit a recommendation letter from a supervisor or manager familiar with their work performance. The letter should narrate the student's experience, roles and responsibilities within the organization.
- Students must have earned a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 on all work attempted and should submit one official transcript (translated if they are not in English per University graduate education requirements and evaluated by a professional service per Pharm.D. admission requirements) from each college or university attended.
- Students must provide official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL/IELTS), or other evidence approved by College of Professional Advancement, if English is not the applicant's native language.

- Students must complete a formal interview with the Mathematics, Science and Informatics departmental faculty of College of Professional Advancement. These interviews will be conducted only after potential candidates have applied for admission to the M.S. in Health Informatics program and are judged qualified for an interview.

### **Program Requirements**

While completing the requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, students may take courses in College of Professional Advancement toward the M.S. in Health Informatics degree provided they maintain a 2.75 minimum pharmacy school grade point average and a 3.0 health informatics grade point average. Please refer to the College of Professional Advancement M.S. in Health Informatics section for program requirements.

M.S. in Health Informatics courses offered at College of Professional Advancement can be used to satisfy professional-level elective hours required for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program. This does not preclude students taking professional-level electives in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program, and students are encouraged to take advantage of elective courses offered by the College of Pharmacy that will further develop their knowledge and skills in specific areas within the field of pharmacy.

### **Academic Advisement**

Academic advisement for students participating in the Pharm.D./M.S. in Health Informatics Program is provided by the Pharm.D./M.S. in Health Informatics Program Director in the College of Pharmacy and the Coordinator of the M.S. in Health Informatics program in College of Professional Advancement.

## **Master of Science in Health Outcomes**

### **Program Description**

Mercer's Master of Science in Health Outcomes (MSHO) is designed to provide unique competencies that would allow the graduate to contribute to addressing current challenges in health care delivery and policy. The program provides foundational instruction related to core aspects of health outcomes research including biostatistics, epidemiology, research methods, health economics, and health care delivery. All students will complete the degree program with either a thesis or non-thesis capstone project that pulls together curricular outcomes from the entire program. Students will have the opportunity to interact with experienced academic faculty as well as leaders in health outcomes from the pharmaceutical industry and health systems.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the completion of the program, the MERCER graduate will be able to:

- Develop testable research hypotheses
- Develop and evaluate analytical plans for testing the statistical significance of research findings
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct a research project from inception to completion
- Clearly articulate the methods, findings, and implications of research projects via oral and written communication
- Possess a knowledge base and skill set that leads to employment and success in chosen career
- Evaluate published literature, policy documents, and scientific research