The Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics provides a solid foundation in computer information systems and technologies for healthcare organizations including healthcare regulation, project management of health systems, databases, and security. In addition to the health informatics content, the degree program includes a broad collegiate education. The program is designed for those who have some technical or clinical knowledge in a health care environment and are ready to move to increased levels of expertise and knowledge in the health informatics field. The health informatics component of the Bachelor of Science program consists of the following areas of study: Healthcare Data, Health Information Technology, Medical Terminology, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology. There are a number of other areas of study that students master including IT Fundamentals, Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare, Leadership and Management, Anatomy and Physiology, Healthcare Compliance and Coding, Project Management, Financial Resource Management, and Healthcare Statistics. There are two professional practice experiences required with a portfolio project in each. At the end of the program students complete a capstone project.
Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

Practically speaking, what does it mean when we say that WGU’s programs are competency-based? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award degrees based on credit hours or on a certain set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your degree by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of important concepts through a series of carefully designed courses.

Progress through your degree program is governed not by classes but by satisfactory completion of the required courses that demonstrate your mastery of the competencies. Of course, you will need to engage in learning experiences as you brush up on competencies or develop knowledge and skills in areas in which you may be weak. For this learning and development, WGU has a rich array of learning resources in which you may engage under the direction of your student mentor. You will work closely with your mentor to schedule your program for completing the courses. You will also work closely with additional faculty members as you proceed through courses of study that are designed to lead you through the content you must master in order to pass the assessment(s) for each course.

The benefit of this competency-based system is that it makes it possible for people who are knowledgeable about a particular subject to make accelerated progress toward completing a WGU degree, even if they lack college experience. You may have gained skills and knowledge of a subject while on the job, accumulated wisdom through years of life experience, or, indeed, taken a course on a particular subject. WGU will award your degree based on the skills and knowledge that you possess and can demonstrate—not the number of credits hours on your transcript.

Accreditation

Western Governors University is the only university in the history of American higher education to have earned accreditation from four regional accrediting commissions. WGU’s accreditation was awarded by (1) the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, (2) the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, (3) the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and (4) the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The university’s accreditation status is now managed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The WGU Teachers College is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Health Informatics program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

The Degree Plan

The focus of your program is your personalized Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is a detailed blueprint of the courses you will need to complete in order to earn your degree. The Degree Plan also lays out the accompanying learning resources and assessments that compose your program. The list of courses in the Degree Plan is often referred to as the standard path. The amount of time it takes to complete your program depends on both the amount of new information you need to learn and the amount of time you plan to devote each week to study.
Students will vary widely in the specific skills and information they need to learn. For example, some students may be highly knowledgeable in a particular subject matter and would not need to engage in new learning opportunities. Other students may find that portions of the program require them to learn new information and that they may need to take an online class or participate in a study module to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to pass the program competencies in that area. Some individuals may be able to devote as little as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason, you will complete preassessments to help your mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and experience for use in creating your personalized Degree Plan.

**WGU’s Mentoring Approach**

The mentoring approach is a powerful component of the WGU educational experience. When you enroll at WGU, you will begin interacting with your student mentor, course mentors, and other support staff. Your student mentor will meet with you on a regular basis and take an active role and a personal interest in your success. Your student mentor will be your point of contact throughout your program and will be available to communicate with you via e-mail or phone. Your mentor will help you set weekly study goals, guide you to learning materials, help you understand what to expect in courses, and motivate you to work hard to complete your program. When you have questions or concerns, your mentor will help you resolve them.

As you work on each course, you will also be assigned course mentors. These course mentors are content experts who can discuss your learning for the course, help you find answers to content questions, and help you navigate the course successfully. Your course mentors are available to meet with you individually to provide personal support. You can also communicate with them by posting in the online learning community and participating in live discussion sessions such as webinars and cohorts.

Working closely with your own personal mentoring team will help you engage in the learning process and be a successful student while at WGU.

**Connecting with Other Mentors and Fellow Students**

As you proceed through your Degree Plan, you will have direct contact with multiple faculty members. These communications can take a variety of forms, including participation in one-on-one discussions, chats in the learning communities, and live cohort and webinar opportunities. As a WGU student, you will have access to your own personal myWGU Student Portal, which will provide a gateway to your courses of study, learning resources, and learning communities where you will have interactions with faculty and other students.

The resources in each course are specifically designed to support you as you develop competencies in preparation for your assessments through the utilization of reading materials, videos, tutorials, cohort opportunities, community discussions, and live discussions that are guided by content experts. You will access your program community during your orientation course to network with peers who are enrolled in your program and to receive continued support through professional enrichment and program-specific chats, blogs, and discussions. WGU also provides Student Services Associates to help you and your mentor solve any special problems that may arise.
Orientation

The WGU orientation course focuses on acquainting you with WGU’s competency-based model, distance education, technology, and other resources and tools available for students. You will also utilize WGU program and course communities, participate in activities, and get to know other students at WGU. The orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

Transferability of Prior College Coursework

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award degrees based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. However, if you have completed college coursework at another accredited institution, or if you have completed industry certifications, you may have your transcripts and certifications evaluated to determine if you are eligible to receive some transfer credit. The guidelines for determining what credits will be granted varies based on the degree program. Students entering graduate programs must have their undergraduate degree verified before being admitted to WGU. To review more information in regards to transfer guidelines based on the different degree programs, you may visit the Student Handbook found at the link below and search for “Transfer Credit Evaluation.”

Click here for the Student Handbook

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student’s professional experience and does not perform a “résumé review” or “portfolio review” that will automatically waive any degree requirements. Degree requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the degree content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU’s competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your degree program.

Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress

WGU is a “continuous enrollment” institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your student mentor will review the progress you have made and revise your Degree Plan for your next six-month term.

WGU requires that students make measurable progress toward the completion of their degree programs every term. We call this “On-Time Progress,” denoting that you are on track and making progress toward on-time graduation. As full-time students, graduate students must enroll in at least eight (8) competency units each term, and undergraduate students must enroll in at least twelve (12) competency units each term. Completing at least these minimum enrollments is essential to On-Time Progress and serves as a baseline from which you may accelerate your program. We measure your progress based on the courses you are able to pass, not on your accumulation of credit hours or course grades. Every time you pass a course you are demonstrating that you have mastered skills and knowledge in your degree program. For comparison to traditional grading systems, passing a course means you have demonstrated competency equivalent to a “B” grade or better.
WGU assigns competency units to each course in order to track your progress through the program. A competency unit is equivalent to one semester credit of learning. Some courses may be assigned 3 competency units while others may be as large as 12 competency units.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is particularly important to students on financial aid because you must achieve SAP in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. We will measure your SAP quantitatively by reviewing the number of competency units you have completed each term. In order to remain in good academic standing, you must complete at least 66.67% of the units you attempt over the length of your program—including any courses you add to your term to accelerate your progress. Additionally, during your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions.

Courses

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your degree, you will be required to demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing the assessment(s) for each course. In general there are two types of assessments: performance assessments and objective assessments. Performance assessments contain, in most cases, multiple scored tasks such as projects, essays, and research papers. Objective assessments include multiple-choice items, multiple-selection items, matching, short answer, drag-and-drop, and point-and-click item types, as well as case study and video-based items. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in each course of study.

Learning Resources

You will work with your mentor to select the various learning resources needed to prepare for the assessments in each course. In most cases, the learning materials you will use are independent learning resources such as textbooks, e-learning modules, study guides, simulations, virtual labs, and tutorials. WGU works with dozens of educational providers, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions to give you high-quality and effective instruction that matches the competencies that you are developing. The cost of most learning resources is included in your tuition, and you can enroll directly in those through your Degree Plan as your mentor has scheduled them. Some resources are not covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU has excellent bookstore and library arrangements to help you obtain the needed learning resources.

Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be expected to enroll in a minimum of 12 competency units each term. Graduate students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 8 competency units each term. A standard plan for a student for this program who entered WGU without any transfer units would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by the extent of your transfer units, your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.
# Standard Path for Bachelor of Science, Health Informatics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>CUs</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Ecosystems</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of United States Constitution and Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to IT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Information Law and Regulations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Composition II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements of Effective Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analytics and Information Governance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Compliance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network and Security - Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business of IT - Project Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking and Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Informatics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Resource Management and Healthcare Reimbursement</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Statistics and Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and Performance Management and Methods</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Management - Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Practice Experience and Portfolio - Technical Level</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Changes to Curriculum

WGU publishes an Institutional Catalog, which describes the academic requirements of each degree program. Although students are required to complete the program version current at the time of their enrollment, WGU may modify requirements and course offerings within that version of the program to maintain the currency and relevance of WGU’s competencies and programs. As these changes are implemented, WGU will ensure that the length of the student’s degree program (i.e., total competency unit requirements) will not increase and that competency units already earned will be applied to the updated program version. When program requirements are updated, students returning from term break or returning after withdrawal from the university will be expected to re-enter the updated version of the program.
Areas of Study for Bachelor of Science, Health Informatics

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual competencies you bring to the program and your confidence in developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in each area of the degree. The Degree Plan and learning resources are dynamic, so you need to review your Degree Plan and seek the advice of your mentor regarding the resources before you purchase them.

Healthcare Data

Healthcare Ecosystems
This course covers skills and competencies in relation to the organization, components, and operation of healthcare systems; licensure and accreditation, quality, and reimbursement; access to healthcare, federal healthcare, and legislative programs; and trends in healthcare delivery.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate analyzes how licensing, certification, and accreditation agencies for healthcare organizations impact healthcare delivery at federal, state, local, and organizational levels.
- The graduate analyzes how emerging technologies and trends in healthcare informatics and medical practice, as well as federal government initiatives, impact contemporary healthcare delivery.
- The graduate analyzes how the components and operation of healthcare delivery systems across the continuum of patient care influence cost, access, and quality of care.
- The graduate analyzes how federal legislation and programs influence the provision of services at all levels of healthcare organizations.
- The graduate analyzes how relationships between clinical healthcare quality, reimbursement for services, and patient access to medical care influence the services that are provided at various levels of healthcare organizations.
- The graduate assesses the implications of key historic, economic, social, and legislative events that influenced the evolution of medical care in the United States; and analyzes the roles of health professionals as well as technology on the organization of contemporary healthcare systems.

Data Analytics and Information Governance

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate ensures compliance with health information standards and regulations as outlined in professional practice guidelines, government regulations, and accreditation standards; and analyzes health record documentation practices in healthcare organizations.
- The graduate applies key concepts and skills related to data quality and integrity and maintains health informatics standards and organizational policies in healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates how the types and content of health records are used in healthcare organizations and complies with government regulations, accreditation standards, and legal guidelines for records storage.
- The graduate differentiates and organizes healthcare data and applies data collection methods that support clinical practice needs and organizational requirements for healthcare organizations.

Financial Resource Management and Healthcare Reimbursement
The focus of this area of study is developing competencies in the management of financial resources at the departmental or organizational level. Competency areas include analysis of
reimbursement systems and how the coding and billing function impacts the revenue cycle; general accounting principles; legal, regulatory, and compliance issues related to finance; strategic financial planning, and management control processes.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate evaluates coding and billing functions and ascertains potential impacts to institutional revenue cycles for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate explains the management control process and analyzes variances for management use in healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates and explains the structures and components of and performs payment calculations for outpatient healthcare reimbursement in healthcare organizations.
- The graduate describes key components of private, commercial, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance plans and evaluates how various insurers use coding in the billing process.
- The graduate develops a broad knowledge of financial information and organization classification as well as financial decision-making processes in the operations of healthcare organizations.
- The graduate describes the functions of financial and managerial accounting, and analyzes financial statements for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate describes major components of the U.S. healthcare legal and regulatory environments and evaluates policies and procedures in healthcare organizations to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations.
- The graduate describes the general factors that influence healthcare pricing and the components of negotiating a managed care contract, and calculates returns on investment for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate describes and compares sources of operating revenue and facility-wide structures of revenue cycles in healthcare organizations, and calculates rates of federal programs applicable to healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates and explains components and methods of non-Medicare/non-Medicaid government-sponsored healthcare programs and recognizes the impact that government-sponsored healthcare programs have on the healthcare system in the United States.
- The graduate describes and compares contemporary healthcare reimbursement methodologies and systems utilized in the United States.
- The graduate explains the strategic financial process, the components of cost concepts, and decision making and capital formations, and evaluates financial plans for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate describes and compares models of quality reporting systems, explains how these models link quality to reimbursement, and evaluates the role of health information management for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate identifies and evaluates code sets associated with various levels of healthcare settings and articulates procedural and ethical guidelines, rules, and regulations for clinical coding within healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates and explains various government-sponsored healthcare programs and recognizes the impact that government-sponsored healthcare programs have on the healthcare system in the United States.

Healthcare Statistics and Research

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate applies the components of the research process for the purpose of developing an effective research project and to add to the professional body of knowledge in health informatics.
- The graduate applies a specific research methodology to solve an organizational problem or add to the body of knowledge in health information management.
- The graduate applies outcomes and effectiveness research strategies in a healthcare organization to impact patient care, organizational processes, and clinical outcomes.
The graduate supports ethical biomedical research in a healthcare organization by applying federal guidelines and adhering to organizational standards that protect human subjects.

Leadership and Management

Organizational Behavior and Leadership
Organizational Behavior and Leadership explores how to lead and manage effectively in diverse business environments. Students are asked to demonstrate the ability to apply organizational leadership theories and management strategies in a series of scenario-based problems.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate can determine which type of team and team leadership should be used to accomplish a task or project.
- The graduate can recommend appropriate principles or techniques for guiding the development of a group.
- The graduate can develop and recommend how to implement effective performance evaluation processes.
- The graduate analyzes the culture within an organization to determine how to work effectively within that organization.
- The graduate can describe the effects of specified influences on individual behavior.
- The graduate can analyze leadership theories, methods, and tools in given situations and select the appropriate behavior of the leader.

Principles of Management
This course addresses strategic planning, total quality, entrepreneurship, conflict and change, human resource management, diversity, and organizational structure.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate can explain the strategic planning process.
- The graduate responds appropriately to diversity issues in the workplace.
- The graduate can describe how to establish and promote an entrepreneurial emphasis within an organization.
- The graduate can describe how to establish a total quality management program in a product operation and in a service operation.
- The graduate can recommend effective techniques for managing conflict and change.
- The graduate can correctly apply principles of human resource management in a given situation.
- The graduate can recommend an organizational structure to match a given organization’s situation.

General Education

English Composition I
This course introduces learners to the types of writing and thinking that is valued in college and beyond. Students will practice writing in several genres and several media, with emphasis placed on writing and revising academic arguments. The course contains supporting media, articles, and excerpts to support a focus on one of five disciplinary threads (covering the topics of nursing, business, information technology, teaching, and literature, art, and culture) designed to engage students and welcome them into discussion about contemporary issues. The course supports peer review activities, though it may be completed asynchronously as well. Instruction and exercises in grammar, mechanics, research documentation, and style are paired with each module so that writers can practice these skills as necessary. This course includes full access to the MindEdge Writing Pad to support student writing and coaching sessions.

This course covers the following competencies:
The graduate composes an appropriate argumentative essay for a given context.
The graduate integrates credible and relevant sources into written arguments.
The graduate uses appropriate writing and revision strategies
The graduate composes an appropriate narrative for a given context.
The graduate applies appropriate grammatical rules, sentence structure, and writing conventions.
The graduate appropriately uses a given writing style.
The graduate selects appropriate rhetorical strategies that improve writing and argumentation.

Survey of United States Constitution and Government
In Survey of United States Constitution and Government, you will examine the structure, institutions and principles of the American political system. The foundation of the United States government is the U.S. Constitution, and this course will introduce the concepts of (a) separation of powers, (b) checks and balances, (c) civil liberties and civil rights, and (d) federalism and republicanism.

By completing this course, you will have proven competency in the structures of government, your own role in the policy-making process, and the ways in which the Constitution and government has changed over time.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate analyzes the role of individuals, interest groups, and political parties in the U.S. electoral system.
- The graduate analyzes the division of power between national and state governments.
- The graduate analyzes the development and protection of individual civil liberties and civil rights.
- The graduate analyzes the formation of personal and collective political opinions and the influence of the media.
- The graduate analyzes the central themes and founding principles of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. government.
- The graduate analyzes the dilemmas and principles of government.
- The graduate analyzes the powers of each branch of government and the relationships among them.

English Composition II
English Composition II introduces learners to research writing and thinking that are valued in college and beyond. The Composition II course at WGU should be seen as a foundational course designed to help undergraduate students build fundamental skills for ongoing development in writing and research. Students will complete an academic research paper.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate applies steps of the writing process appropriately to improve quality of writing.
- The graduate evaluates the quality, credibility, and relevance of evidence in order to integrate evidence into a final research paper.
- The graduate composes an argumentative research paper.

Elements of Effective Communication
Elements of Effective Communication introduces learners to elements of communication that are valued in college and beyond. Materials are based on five principles: being aware of your communication with yourself and others; using and interpreting verbal messages effectively; using and interpreting nonverbal messages effectively; listening and responding thoughtfully to others, and adapting messages to others appropriately.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate applies foundational elements of effective communication.
• The graduate applies appropriate communication strategies in interpersonal and group contexts.

• The graduate demonstrates effective presentational communication strategies in a given context.

Intermediate Algebra
This course provides an introduction of algebraic concepts and the development of the essential groundwork for College Algebra. Topics include: A review of basic mathematical skills, the real number system, algebraic expressions, linear equations, graphing, exponents and polynomials.

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate determines absolute values, adds and subtracts integers, multiplies and divides real numbers, and determines whether or not a particular integer is a solution.

• The graduate solves linear equations and applications.

• The graduate translates, simplifies, and evaluates algebraic expressions.

• The graduate graphs ordered pairs and lines on the Cartesian coordinate system.

• The graduate identifies, evaluates, and multiplies exponents and polynomials.

Introduction to Psychology
In this course, students will develop an understanding of psychology and how it helps them better understand others and themselves. Students will learn general theories about psychological development, the structure of the brain, and how psychologists study behavior. They will gain an understanding of both normal and disordered psychological behaviors, as well as general applications of the science of psychology in society (such as personality typing and counseling).

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate examines key developmental milestones across the lifespan.

• The graduate examines the processes of social cognition and their effects on social interactions.

• The graduate analyzes the role and function of the brain, nervous system, and endocrine system in human psychology.

• The graduate analyzes how the scientific method is used in psychology.

• The graduate examines the relationships between intelligence and memory.

• The graduate examines the significant characteristics of major theories of emotion, motivation, and personality.

• The graduate examines the relationships among classical, operant, and observational learning theories.

• The graduate examines the principle causes, prevalence, and basic treatments of psychological disorders.

College Algebra
This course supports the assessment for College Algebra with Hawkes Learning. College Algebra provides a detailed exploration into basic algebraic concepts and functions and their use in describing, interpreting, and modeling real-world situations.

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate simplifies and factors polynomial expressions, and solves polynomial equations.

• The graduate combines functions, finds inverse functions, solves exponential and logarithmic equations and functions.

• The graduate simplifies rational, radical, and quadratic expressions, solves corresponding equations, and extends this knowledge to the study of functions.

• The graduate solves systems of linear equations and their related applications.

• The graduate classifies and performs operations on real numbers; solves linear equations and inequalities; connects a
linear equation to its graph; and identifies a function.

**Introduction to Probability and Statistics**
In this course, students demonstrate competency in the basic concepts, logic, and issues involved in statistical reasoning. Topics include summarizing and analyzing data, sampling and study design, and probability.

**This course covers the following competencies:**
- The graduate determines the probability of events using simulations, diagrams, and probability rules.
- The graduate evaluates categorical and quantitative data using appropriate numerical measures and graphical displays.
- The graduate designs and conducts observational studies, controlled experiments, and surveys to explore population characteristics.
- The graduate evaluates the sampling methods used in studies including the effect they have on conclusions that can be made.
- The graduate evaluates the relationship between two variables through the creation and interpretation of numerical summaries and visual displays.
- The graduate applies theoretical or empirical probability to a situation to quantify uncertainty.

**Introduction to Humanities**
This introductory humanities course allows students to practice essential writing, communication, and critical thinking skills necessary to engage in civic and professional interactions as mature, informed adults. Whether through studying literature, visual and performing arts, or philosophy, all humanities courses stress the need to form reasoned, analytical, and articulate responses to cultural and creative works. Studying a wide variety of creative works allows students to more effectively enter the global community with a broad and enlightened perspective.

**This course covers the following competencies:**
- The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Classical period.
- The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Realist movement.
- The graduate assesses the development of humans through the study of key concepts, disciplines, and primary influences of the humanities.
- The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Romantic period.
- The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Renaissance.
- The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities within the Neoclassical and Enlightenment period.

**Critical Thinking and Logic**
Reasoning and Problem Solving helps students internalize a systematic process for exploring issues that takes them beyond an unexamined point of view and encourages them to become more self-aware thinkers by applying principles of problem identification and clarification, planning and information gathering, identifying assumptions and values, analysis and interpretation of information and data, reaching well-founded conclusions, and identifying the role of critical thinking in the disciplines and professions.

**This course covers the following competencies:**
- The graduate logically brings together information to arrive at a viable solution to a problem, and then clearly and accurately communicates the results.
- The graduate analyzes open-ended problems by learning about the problem and evaluating the accuracy and relevance of different perspectives on the problem.
• The graduate evaluates different sources representing a range of perspectives on a problem in order to weigh the implications and consequences of different solutions to the problem.

• The graduate identifies internal and external biases and assumptions related to a problem, and evaluates the influence and validity of these biases and assumptions.

• The graduate recognizes the value of critical thinking in identifying and understanding the underlying structures of the disciplines and professions.

• The graduate synthesizes information to understand a problem’s complexities and potential solutions, and then evaluates the reasoning and evidence in support of these different solutions.

Microbiology
Clinical Microbiology focuses on microbes—both constructive and destructive—that are among the smallest living entities on earth. Students will examine how they live, reproduce, carry diseases, and develop resistance to antibiotics. This course has a clinical focus.

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate recognizes how the growth of microorganisms can be controlled.

• The graduate recognizes how the structure, function, and transmission of protozoa and parasites can be detrimental to humans; and solves cases involving how protozoa and parasites spread in humans.

• The graduate recognizes the origin and transmission of organisms in the environment and the adaptability of microbes; describes growth patterns of microbes and the elements necessary for the spread of infection; and determines possible hosts for given pathogens.

• The graduate recognizes types and characteristics of microorganisms, performs biochemical tests, and recognizes principles of osmosis.

• The graduate recognizes how the structure, function, and transmission of viruses affect humans; applies knowledge of how viruses spread in humans; and solves cases involving viral infections.

• The graduate identifies characteristics, structures, and functions of common molds, yeasts, and fungi; recognizes how the structure, function, and transmission of fungi affect humans; and solves cases involving how fungi spread in humans.

• The graduate identifies the structure, function, and transmission of bacteria and their role in pathogenesis; recognizes how bacteria can be beneficial or detrimental (or both) to humans; and solves cases involving how bacteria spread in humans.

• The graduate recognizes basic principles of antimicrobial therapy, antibiotic resistance, and selective toxicity; recognizes the use of different types of antimicrobials; and conducts the antibiotic sensitivity test and the Kirby-Bauer test.

• The graduate uses appropriate techniques or procedures for interacting with microorganisms in a clinic, laboratory, or community setting; utilizes basic laboratory techniques for identifying microorganisms; demonstrates proper laboratory techniques in microbiology, including sterile technique, staining techniques, aseptic technique, and chemical indicators; and recognizes types of culture media and when to use each.

IT Fundamentals

Introduction to IT
This course introduces students to information technology as a discipline and the various roles and functions of the IT department as business support. Students are presented with various IT disciplines including systems and services, network and security, scripting and programming, data management, and business of IT, with a survey of technologies in every area and how they relate to each other and to the business.

This course covers the following competencies:
Health Information Technology

Health Information Law and Regulations
This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate analyzes how ethics influence appropriate decision-making processes in healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates the confluence of quality improvement and risk management practices that support favorable legal outcomes for healthcare organizations.
- The graduate applies common procedural and conceptual aspects of the law relating to health information management in situations that arise within healthcare organizations.
- The graduate evaluates management policies and practices for legal health records and recognizes consequences for healthcare organizations when records are used to substantiate healthcare law.
- The graduate applies compliance requirements identified by government regulations and by accreditation, licensing, and certification agencies to mitigate legal risk to healthcare organizations.

Healthcare Compliance
This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate designs a basic compliance training program for the Health Information Department.
- The graduate describes the concepts and process behind the Charge Description Master (CDM) translation table.
- The graduate describes the process for recruiting, hiring, and retaining coding staff, and evaluating coding candidate qualifications.
- The graduate designs a follow-up action plan for external and internal compliance audits.
- The graduate explains the value, components, and roles in a compliance plan and prepares a Health Information Department compliance plan.
- The graduate understands and applies appropriate compliance guidelines pertaining to the ethical and legal issues surrounding healthcare information management.
- The graduate describes internal coding function assessments and strategies for maximizing productivity and quality, develops and implements productivity and quality standards, and performs coding volume analyses.
• The graduate describes the abstracting functions for internal and external reporting of information.
• The graduate describes the role of the coding professional, identifies the different coding functions, and completes a job analysis of coding roles.
• The graduate explains coding policies and processes necessary to ensure compliance of documentation with appropriate guidelines.

Classification Systems
This course covers the following competencies:
• The graduate correctly codes data pertaining to injuries and poisonings, manifestations, complications, and treatment of complications of surgical and medical care and mental disorders.
• The graduate selects the correct codes for principal diagnosis, additional diagnoses, and primary diagnosis.
• The graduate describes the development, purpose, content of the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding Systems (HCPCS) and applies their principles and guidelines.
• The graduate defines the data requirements needed to support provider reimbursement and articulate the alternative health-care setting federal legislation prospective payment system in Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes.
• The graduate practices correct and precise coding using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes.
• The graduate describes the development, purpose, content of the International Classification of Diseases system and applies its principles and guidelines.
• The graduate defines the data requirements needed to support the evaluation and management determination in Current Procedural Terminology (CPT).
• The graduate correctly codes data pertaining to the major body systems.
• The graduate correctly codes data pertaining to pregnancy, childbirth, the puerperium, perinatal period, and congenital anomalies.
• The graduate recognizes the structural similarities and differences between International Classification of Diseases versions ICD 9CM, ICD-10CM, and ICD-10-PCS.

Healthcare Informatics
This course covers the following competencies:
• The graduate analyzes activities of project management to ensure efficient work flow and appropriate outcomes for projects for healthcare organizations.
• The graduate analyzes the commitment of human and financial resources of healthcare organizations in vendor selection, contract negotiation, and internal staff support for organizational rollout in the implementation of the electronic health record.
• The graduate evaluates a healthcare organization’s medical practice work flow, functional needs of end-users, data infrastructure, and information technology systems and processes, specifically during adoption phases of health informatics systems.
• The graduate analyzes institutional and industry trends in the utilization of electronic health records, and provides direction and support to organizational leadership in the planning and implementation of health informatics systems, including the electronic health record, for healthcare organizations.
• The graduate applies health informatics in various types of healthcare delivery systems to support the diverse requirements of each setting, including acute care, ambulatory care, health information exchanges, and the personal health record for healthcare consumers.
● The graduate analyzes the responsibilities of project team members, recognizes the value of strong leadership as a project manager, and communicates with all team members in ways that facilitate project success; and prepares and maintains project reports as part of the organizational record.

● The graduate applies general principles of project management for project planning, development, and launch, and for evaluating specific project ideas in healthcare organizations.

Quality and Performance Management and Methods

This course covers the following competencies:

● The graduate enhances professional skills as preparation for assuming supervisory responsibility.

● The graduate analyzes the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of quality improvement projects to ensure they comply with both internal organizational processes and applicable standards established by external agencies.

● The graduate applies human resource development techniques in a health information management department in order to create an environment of productivity, teamwork, and observance of applicable standards and guidelines in the workplace.

● The graduate monitors a healthcare organization’s application of standards defined by federal agencies and accrediting bodies to ensure the organization maintains the integrity of achieved quality improvement initiatives.

● The graduate applies effective methods for staff retention, promotes professional development, counsels employees, and applies disciplinary action in an organization to maintain a productive work environment.

● The graduate implements quality improvement initiatives in a healthcare environment in order to promote patient-centered care, build effective work teams, and influence organizational change.

Healthcare Systems Design and Management

This course covers the following competencies:

● The graduate analyzes how information systems, computers, network architecture, the Internet, and emerging technologies influence health information management in healthcare organizations and develops and delivers presentations and procedural materials for staff related to these technologies.

● The graduate develops and recommends database models, including methodologies and policies for data mining and information retrieval, within the health information management department for healthcare organizations.

● The graduate evaluates organizational risk assessment plans, including data and security policies for storage and document retrieval, and selects policies and recommends measures to protect the security of health information in compliance with federal law.

● The graduate informs administrators and staff in decision making pertaining to implementing information systems and decision support systems.

● The graduate evaluates organizational contingency plans that include data recovery procedures and specified contingency security measures for securely managing health information in healthcare organizations.

Health Sciences

Anatomy and Physiology I

This course introduces basic concepts of human anatomy and physiology through a survey of the structures and functions of the body’s organ systems. Students will have the opportunity to explore the body through laboratory experience and apply the basic knowledge of the course. For nursing students this is the first of two anatomy and physiology courses within the program of study.

This course covers the following competencies:
● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human nervous system based on an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human skeletal systems through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human sensory systems based on an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human muscular systems through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate explains the normal operation of the human integumentary systems through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human lymphatic and immune systems through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human male and female reproductive system through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human cardiovascular system based on the understanding of structure, regulation, and function of heart and blood vessels.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human endocrine system through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human digestive systems through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human respiratory system based on the understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate evaluates the normal operation of the human urinary renal system through an understanding of structure, regulation, and function.

● The graduate utilizes appropriate terminology to communicate about human anatomical features, body position, and chemical physiology.

Pathophysiology
Pathophysiology focuses on the pathology and treatment of diseases in the human body, tissues, glands and membranes, the integumentary system, the sensory system, skeletal and muscular systems, the digestive system, blood, vessels and circulation, lymphatic system, immunity and disease, heart and respiratory system, nervous, urinary and endocrine systems, and male and female reproductive systems.

This course covers the following competencies:

● The graduate analyzes common disorders of the digestive system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

● The graduate analyzes common disorders of the male and female reproductive systems and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

● The graduate analyzes common disorders of the urinary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, pharmaceutical intervention, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

● The graduate analyzes common skin disorders of the integumentary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

● The graduate analyzes common disorders of the heart and respiratory system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

● The graduate analyzes common disorders of the musculoskeletal system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, pharmaceutical intervention, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the endocrine system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

The graduate analyzes how the organization of the human body and body systems relates to the physiological functions of the body and impacts disease processes.

The graduate analyzes common disorders of the blood, vessels, and circulation and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

The graduate analyzes common disorders of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

The graduate analyzes the composition of tissues, glands and membranes and how pathological changes in these structures impact the human body.

The graduate analyzes common disorders of the sense organs and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, pharmaceutical intervention, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

The graduate analyzes the relationship between the lymphatic system and immunity and disease in the human body and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures related to lymphatic disorders and immunity.

Pharmacology
Pharmacology covers concepts in Pharmacology including drug classification and effects, and the numerous types of pharmacological interventions used to treat disease and disorders in the systems of the human body.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The graduate analyzes fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents that affect the central nervous system.
- The graduate analyzes fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of conditions that affect the gastrointestinal tracts.
- The graduate evaluates fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents that affect the nervous system.
- The graduate analyzes fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of respiratory system conditions.
- The graduate evaluates fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of conditions affecting the endocrine system.
- The graduate evaluates fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents that affect the peripheral nervous system.
- The graduate evaluates fundamental concepts associated with the categories of pharmaceutical products used to treat infectious diseases.
- The graduate analyzes fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of vascular and renal system diseases.
- The graduate evaluates the basic concepts, principles, and standards of general pharmacology.
- The graduate analyzes fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of neoplastic diseases and immune system disorders.
- The graduate evaluates fundamental concepts associated with pharmaceutical agents used in the treatment of conditions that affect the cardiovascular system.

Network and Security
Network and Security - Foundations
This course introduces students to the components of a computer network and the concept and role of communication protocols. The course will cover widely used categorical classifications of networks (i.e CAN, LAN, MAN, WAN) as well as
network topologies, physical devices, and layered abstraction. The course will also introduce students to basic concepts of security, covering vulnerabilities of networks and mitigation techniques, security of physical media, and security policies and procedures.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate identifies the basic concepts essential to network security.
- The graduate identifies the basic concepts essential to networking.
- The graduate identifies the functional and technical components of network systems.

Medical Terminology

Medical Terminology focuses on the anatomy of word building and medical terminology as it relates to body organization and directional terms, the integumentary system, special senses of the eye and ear, the musculoskeletal system, the digestive system, blood, lymphatic, immunity and infections, cardiovascular and respiratory systems, nervous system and mental health, urinary system, endocrine system, male and female reproductive systems, and cancer.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the digestive system.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with body organization, direction and position.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the special senses of the eye and ear.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with reproductive systems in context with anatomical structures and physiological functions of the human body.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the respiratory system in context with anatomical structures and physiological functions of the human body.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the musculoskeletal system.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the endocrine and nervous systems in context with anatomical structures and physiological functions of the human body.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the integumentary system.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems in context with anatomical structures and physiological functions related to immunity and infections of the human body.
- The graduate accurately uses medical terms associated with the urinary system.
- The graduate correctly identifies and defines primary word parts and forms of basic medical terms.

Business of IT

Business of IT - Project Management

This course introduces the student to the project management & business analysis process within the context of an IT project. Fundamental concepts of project management will be covered including all phase of project management during a system life cycle including business analysis, requirements capturing, issue tracking, and release planning. Additional topics to include: development environments (dev, integration, QA, production), help desk and support, IT planning for business continuity. This course prepares students for the following certification exam: CompTIA Project+.

This course covers the following competencies:
- The graduate implements, controls, and coordinates projects according to project plans.
- The graduate creates a project plan.
● The graduate explains the strategies and processes of project closure, acceptance, and delivery.
● The graduate describes and explains key components of project plans.

Business of IT - Applications
This course introduces IT students to information systems (IS). The course includes important topics related to management of information systems (MIS), such as system development, and business continuity. The course also provides an overview of management tools and issue tracking systems.

This course covers the following competencies:
● The graduate recognizes the need for support center tool, and identifies ways to manage the support processes.
● The graduate defines the general principles of information systems (IS) and the role of IS in the business process within an organization.
● The graduate identifies the role of management in information systems and the necessity for security and contingency plans.
● The graduate defines the different methods of system development and selects the appropriate method for a project.

Data Management

Data Management - Foundations
This course introduces students to the concepts and terminology used in the field of data management. They will be introduced to Structured Query Language (SQL) and will learn how to use Data Definition Language (DDL) and Data Manipulation Language (DML) commands to define, retrieve, and manipulate data. This course covers differentiations of data—structured vs. unstructured and quasi-structured (relational, hierarchical, XML, textual, visual, etc); it also covers aspects of data management (quality, policy, storage methodologies). Foundational concepts of data security will be included.

This course covers the following competencies:
● The graduate demonstrates appropriate strategies to normalize data.
● The graduate demonstrates an understanding of the concepts of the relational model of data.
● The graduate demonstrates an understanding of the concepts involved in the modeling of data.
● The graduate demonstrates an understanding of the concepts involved in business intelligence and analytical processing.
● The graduate demonstrates a fundamental understanding of storage technologies.
● The graduate demonstrates an understanding of SQL concepts.
● The graduate demonstrates an understanding of data, databases, and data management.

Professional Practice Experience

Professional Practice Experience and Portfolio - Technical Level

This course covers the following competencies:
● The graduate displays the qualities and demeanor of professionalism, practices reflection, recognizes the need for and adheres to requirements for confidentiality, and engages in ethical behaviors as an independently functioning health informatics professional.
● The graduate evaluates how operational components within healthcare organizations demonstrate adherence to government regulatory standards, accreditation guidelines, and quality improvement initiatives.
• The graduate applies appropriate basic health informatics and information management skills based on organizational needs within healthcare organizations.

Professional Practice Experience and Portfolio - Management Level

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate applies health informatics/information management skills at the managerial level at a healthcare organization.

• The graduate exemplifies high professional standards, upholds confidentiality requirements, promotes the guidelines of the American Health Information Management Association Code of Ethics, and demonstrates leadership skills as a health informatics professional at a healthcare organization.

• The graduate analyzes how the operational management of a healthcare organization adheres to government regulations, accreditation guidelines, and quality improvement initiatives.

Capstone

Health Informatics Capstone Project

Health Informatics Capstone Project is the culmination of the student’s degree program. It requires the demonstration of competencies through a deliverable of significant scope in the form of a research project. The capstone project consists of a technical work product applicable to the field of health informatics and information management. Students should consider creating this final product with the aim of expanding the body of knowledge within the profession. The topic of the Capstone must be presented to and approved by the Capstone Mentor before starting the project.

This course covers the following competencies:

• The graduate integrates and synthesizes competencies from across the degree program and thereby demonstrates the ability to participate in and contribute value to the chosen professional field.
**Need More Information? WGU Student Services**

WGU’s Student Services team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. The Student Services office is available during extended hours to assist with general questions and administrative or accessibility issues. The Student Services team members help you resolve issues, listen to student issues and concerns, and make recommendations for improving policy and practice based on student feedback. The Student Services team provides a formal means by which you can express your views, which in turn will inform the decisions we make.

Student Services team members also assist with unresolved concerns to find equitable resolutions. To contact the Student Services team, please feel free to call 877-435-7948 or e-mail studentservices@wgu.edu. We are available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time.

If you have inquiries or concerns that require technical support, please contact the WGU IT Service Desk. The IT Service Desk is available Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. To contact the IT Service Desk, please call 1-877-HELP-WGU (877-435-7948) or e-mail servicedesk@wgu.edu.

For the most current information regarding WGU support services, please visit “Student Support” on the Student Portal at http://my.wgu.edu.