XX. JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

B. Joint JD/MHI (Master of Health Informatics) Degree Program

NKU Chase College of Law and the NKU College of Informatics offer a joint JD/MHI degree.

The following describes the JD/MHI program:

A student entering the joint JD/MHI program is required to complete 108 semester credit-hours, consisting of 78 hours in the College of Law and at least 30 hours in the College of Informatics. If the same student were to complete each degree separately, he or she would be required to take 90 credit-hours in law and at least 35 in Health Informatics. Thus, the joint degree program allows the student to take 12 fewer law credit-hours and 5 fewer Informatics credit-hours. This potentially would allow a student to complete the joint degree program as much as a year earlier.

Students currently enrolled in either the MHI or JD program may elect to pursue the joint degree if they comply with the admission requirements of each program.

Informatics Curriculum

The Master of Science in Health Informatics (MHI) portion of this degree is designed to expose students to the interaction and interdependencies of technology with other key elements in healthcare, including HIPAA compliance, JCAHO accreditation, FDA regulations, clinical decision support, evidence-based practices, and other organizational issues. This program addresses both areas of clinical informatics and health information systems, with a focus on the integration and interoperability of technology within this total environment. The graduates of this program will be able to analyze and understand the effects of the latest technologies on health care organizations, learn various clinical informatics data handling methods, and solve particular problems in the domain.

The required foundation courses provide broad technical skills as well as the organizational competencies required for success by MHI graduates. All courses are associated with specific learning outcomes and outcome assessment methodologies. Students without an adequate academic or work background in health care will be required to take the language and culture of medicine class in addition to the 30 credits required for the joint degree.

Required Core Courses Credits

MHI 600 Introduction to Healthcare Operations (3 credits)
MHI 601 Technical Foundations of Health Informatics (3 credits)
MBI 625 Information Systems in Organizations (3 credits)
MBI 650 Information Technology Project Management (3 credits)
MBI 635 Introduction to Database Management Systems (3 credit)
MHI 650 Research Methods for Health Informatics (3 credits)
TOTAL = 18 Credits

NOTE: Students with an academic background in technology or clinical medicine may petition to waive a single foundation course and replace it with an elective; approval is based upon the assessment of the program director.

Electives

Students are required to take a minimum of 12 hours in elective courses. The electives are grouped into three areas, and students are required to take one course from each of the areas, and must select an additional course from one of the lists.

Within these elective groupings, at least two of the courses must come from the following list: PHI 510; MGT 620; MGT 670; ECO 625; MKT 625

Health Informatics Policy Electives Credits

COM 655 Health Communications (3 credits)
PHI 510 Ethics In Information Technology (3 credits)
MHI 694 Selected Topics in Health Informatics (3 credits)
CSC 670 Social Implications of Computing (3 credits)
MGT 620 Leadership and Ethics (3 credits)
MGT 670 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3 credits)

Business Process Management Electives Credits

MBI 630 Systems Analysis and Design (3 credits)
MBI 675 Enterprise Workflow Design and Reengineering (3 credits)
ECO 625 Managerial Economics (3 credits)
MBI 694 Selected Topics in Business Informatics (3 credits)
COM 604 Organizational Communication (3 credits)
MGT Managing People and Organizations (3 credits)

Knowledge Management Electives

MBI 660 Data Warehousing and Data Mining (3 credits)
MBI 665 Knowledge Management and Decision Support (3 credits)
MBI 694 Selected Topics in Health Informatics (3 credits)
MKT 625 Marketing Management (3 credits)

Note: the MHI electives are updated often with courses from the College of Health Professions, College of Informatics, and College of Business. Students should check with program directors for year-to-year changes.

Admission Requirements

Consideration for admission to the MHI program requires the following be submitted in addition to the application:
1. Official transcripts showing an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants who attended a university outside the United States must submit an evaluation of their transcript showing it is equivalent to a US four-year degree. As a criterion for full admission, applicants must have no less than a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for either the last 60 semester hours of earned undergraduate credit or overall undergraduate credit hours. Applicants completing their undergraduate work at the time the application is submitted may be considered for provisional admission based in part on an official transcript of work completed thus far.

2. Official transcripts from all post-secondary work.

3. A standardized test score. Those acceptable are: the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Minimum acceptable scores vary by test and by version of test. Those holding a master’s, Ph.D., or professional doctoral degree (e.g., M.D., D.D.S.) from a U.S. regionally accredited school are not required to submit standardized test scores.

4. A carefully drafted statement about your personal interests, career goals, and relevant background experience.

5. For students with a degree from outside the US and who are not native English speakers, a TOEFL score (minimum score of 550 paper version, 213 computer-based version, 79 iBT version) or IELTS score (minimum 6.0).

6. A statement addressing your proficiencies in the use of computer technologies.

**Law Curriculum**

**Required Courses for Joint Degree (63 hours)**

- Basic Legal Skills I (2)
- Basic Legal Skills II (3)
- Civil Procedure I (3)
- Civil Procedure II (3)
- Constitutional Law I (3)
- Constitutional Law II (3)
- Contracts I (3)
- Contracts II (3)
- Corporations (3)
- Criminal Law (3)
- Criminal Procedure (3)
- Evidence (3)
- Tax-Basic Income Tax Concepts (3)
- Legal Analysis and Problem Solving (1)
- Professional Responsibility (3)
- Property I (3)
- Property II (3)
- UCC: Sales and Secured Transactions (3) OR
- UCC: Payment Systems (3)
Torts I (3)
Torts II (3)
Healthcare Law (3)
Intellectual Property Survey (3)

Elective Courses (15 hours)

The additional 15 hours needed to fulfill the total of 78 law school hours will be taken from other courses offered by the College of Law, all as elective hours in the joint degree program - whether those courses are offered as Core courses or as Elective courses in the regular law curriculum.

Note: The Core Curriculum will not apply to students in the joint degree program.
Students receiving credit for MGT 670 may not also receive credit for Law 972: Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Advanced Writing Requirements

Students in the joint degree program shall fulfill both parts of the Advanced Writing Requirement.

Skills Training

Effective with the class entering in fall 2008, every student must pass at least three credit hours of professional skills training beyond the required curriculum. A list of courses that satisfy this requirement is located in the College of Law’s Student Handbook.

Additional Information and Requirements

Students enrolled in the joint program should complete their first year of the JD program before beginning to take courses in the College of Informatics. Thereafter, students are encouraged to blend their classes each semester so that a student can gain a better understanding of the interplay between law and informatics.

Students enrolled in the joint degree program are advised to take these courses, as they are available: Patent Law and Patent Prosecution.

No more than 6 hours of credit from courses listed in the “18 Hour Rule” will apply to the 78 hours needed to fulfill the law hours in the joint degree program.

Minimum Law School Grade Point Average

Students in the joint degree program must maintain at least a 2.500 cumulative grade point average in all courses after their first 30 hours of law study and thereafter. Students who do not achieve this GPA will not be permitted to continue in the joint degree program but will be permitted to complete the law degree consistent with academic policies, standards, and requirements applicable to all other law students. The College of Informatics will determine whether that student may continue to pursue the MHI degree outside of the joint degree program.


**Academic Standing**

A student who fails to meet academic requirements of the College of Informatics but who satisfies the academic requirements of the College of Law will be permitted to continue to pursue his or her law degree. Such a student will be required to meet all of the academic requirements of students who are not in the joint degree program. A student who fails to meet the academic requirements of the College of Law will not be permitted to continue pursuing the law portion of the joint degree. The College of Informatics will determine whether that student may continue to pursue the MHI degree.