NURSING INFORMATICS

Information for Prospective Students

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WELCOME FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thank you for your interest in nursing informatics at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON). This packet will answer many of your questions and help you to decide whether one of our programs of study is right for you.

Our MSN and Post-MS programs in nursing informatics can be completed entirely online. No on-campus visits are required. Most of our students study part-time while continuing to work full-time.

We admit students in the spring (late January) and fall (late August). The deadlines for applications are September 1 for spring matriculation and February 1 for fall matriculation. Military students and international students in the United States on a student visa are subject to special regulations and may matriculate only in the fall.

We are fortunate to receive many applications from highly qualified people, and admission to the program is competitive. We are committed to enhancing access to education for less advantaged students and increasing the diversity of the nursing informatics workforce while maintaining high academic standards. Your statement of goals and letters of reference provide opportunities for you to provide information that may not be apparent from your résumé and your transcripts.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to further correspondence.

With best regards,

Eun-Shim Nahm

Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Program Director
Nursing Informatics
Department of Organizational Systems & Adult Health
University of Maryland School of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING
NURSING INFORMATICS FACULTY MEMBERS

Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and program director, conducts research in geroinformatics, developing and evaluating technology-based interventions for the management of the health of aging adults and their caregivers. She has conducted various studies in this field, including qualitative, measurement, theory testing, and usability studies, as well as developing and implementing online interventions using various Web components. Dr. Nahm is a recipient of multiple grant awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Most recently, she completed an R21 study, "A Theory-Based Patient Portal eLearning Program for Older Adults with Chronic Illnesses" (07/2016–06/2019), funded by the AHRQ. Currently, she is leading a 5-year implementation grant project, "*Care Coordination Education-to-Practice Scale-Up Implementation*" (07/2020-06/2025), funded by the Nurse Support Program II. She has published more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and five book chapters in the field. Dr. Nahm teaches graduate-level nursing informatics courses and doctoral-level research courses. She has mentored numerous graduate and doctoral students, as well as junior faculty members.

Arpad Kelemen, PhD, professor, has expertise in biomedical informatics; EHR and healthcare database development, optimization, and evaluation; healthcare software and game development; human-computer interaction; intelligent patient care technologies with artificial intelligence; and data mining of large healthcare data. Dr. Kelemen has published over 50 peer reviewed papers and two books titled "Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics" and "Computational Intelligence in Medical Informatics". He was PI on a HRSA grant, "Nursing informatics program focused on diversity and the underserved". In addition, he has received funding from NSF, NIH, NYSTAR, and the US NAVY. He developed a large-scale intelligent software agent for human-like decision making for the job assignment and job satisfaction. He develops models, algorithms, and intelligent systems for large-scale biomedical data, including healthcare, genomic, and clinical data. He currently leads development of educational and patient-centered online healthcare games.

4/5/2021

Charlotte Seckman, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, associate professor, is a board certified informatics nurse with a research background focused on translating evidence into health care practices; evaluating the usability of the electronic medical record to include system implementation, training, and user satisfaction; exploring nursing informatics competencies; and developing community and cognitive engagement techniques related to Web-based learning modalities. Dr. Seckman has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and five book chapters related to the Electronic Health Record and Telehealth. Funded work in innovative technologies in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine includes the design, implementation and evaluation of a personalized decision support system to support and enhance patient care. Dr. Seckman has taught nursing informatics in undergraduate and graduate levels for over 17 years and mentored many masters and doctoral students during her career.

Ernest Opoku-Agyemang, PhD, MA, RN, assistant professor, has expertise in supporting and implementing information systems in healthcare, finance, e-business and e-commerce. Dr. Opoku had served as a Senior Systems Test Engineer on the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) Medicare Management Information System for the State of Michigan. Prior to that, he worked in the financial industry as a consultant on the Order Audit Trail System (OATS) for the NASDAQ stock market. Dr. Opoku is the recipient of the prestigious British Drummond Wolff award for his MA degree at University of Hull (UK). He is a recipient of the MHEC Nursing Educator Doctoral Grants for Practice and Dissertation Research (NEDG) and the New Nursing Faculty Scholarship. Areas of interest include electronic health records and barcoded computerized medication administration. He received his PhD from the UMSON with a research focus on using mobile applications in managing chronic diseases.

Ronald Piscotty, PhD, RN-BC, Assistant Professor, completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, his MS in Nursing Business and Health Systems and his PhD in Nursing at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. His research interest centers around the impact that healthcare information technologies have on nursing practice and quality and safety in hospital settings. Dr. Piscotty is specifically interested in examining the impact that electronic patient care reminders have on patient care omissions in acute care settings. He has 21 peer reviewed publications and one book chapter in press, and has over 30 peer reviewed presentations. Dr. Piscotty has received both internal and external funding for his research. He has taught nursing courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Dr. Piscotty is board certified in nursing informatics from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. He is a member of several prominent nursing organizations including, Midwest Nursing Research Society, American Medical Informatics Association, and Sigma Theta Tau.

Barbara Van de Castle, DNP, APRN-CNS, OCN, RN-BC, Assistant Professor, is a board certified informatics nurse specialist and a doctorally prepared oncology-certified nurse educator. Currently, she practices as the Nurse Educator in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital where she supports oncology clinicians in the use EHRs to improve workflow and patient outcomes. She is a member of the Clinical Informatics Leadership Committee at Johns Hopkins Hospital and is a Credentialed Trainer for Epic's Beacon program. Dr. Van de Castle's work focuses on improving end users' experience and assessing health outcomes of cancer survivors through innovative use of EHRs. She is actively engaged in the local chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society and in 2017 was awarded the Mary Nowotny Excellence in Cancer Nursing Education Award Recipient at the 2017 ONS National Congress.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING INFORMATICS

VISION AND MISSION

VISION

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) will be a leading academic program in nursing informatics and renowned for our educational programs and research focused on the use of informatics solutions to optimize health outcomes.

UMSON will be recognized for leadership and excellence in education, health information technology policy, research, and health informatics applications at national and international levels.

MISSION

Our mission encompasses education, research, health information technology policy, and application.

Education
- We will offer exceptional and rigorous educational programs for nursing informatics practice, scholarship, and research.
- All nursing informatics graduates will have knowledge and skill in the foundations for contemporary health informatics practice.

Research
- We will support research conducted by nursing informatics faculty, and students will advance knowledge and practice in the informatics domain.
- Success and excellence in research among nursing informatics faculty and students at UMSON will be demonstrated by external funding and scholarly activities.

Health Information Technology Policy
- Nursing informatics faculty and students will use informatics resources to further social and informatics-related policies by collaborating with professional, government, and non-governmental organizations.
- Nursing informatics faculty and students will participate in the development, advocacy, and evaluation of health information technology policy at local, national, and international levels.

Application
- Nursing informatics faculty and students will apply informatics solutions in support of quality, safety, outcomes, and evidence-based practice.

4/5/2021

BECOMING A NURSING INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL

NURSING INFORMATICS:
SCOPE AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

As a nursing informatics student, you should purchase the *Scope of Standards of Nursing Informatics Practice*. This booklet will be required in some of your classes. More information on purchasing this booklet is available on the American Nurses Association website (http://www.nursingworld.org).

CERTIFICATION IN NURSING INFORMATICS

Certification in nursing informatics is not required to practice. It does, however, attest to your expertise and may provide an advantage in employment and advancement. There are currently two organizations offering certification for informatics nurse specialists:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center
  https://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/
- Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS)
- https://www.himss.org/resources/certification

Your program faculty members respect both organizations and do not endorse either in preference to the other.

NURSING INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

As a nursing informatics student, you may want to consider joining the following organizations:

- American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) - NI Working Group
  http://www.amia.org
    - AMIA's Nursing Informatics Working Group provides excellent professional development and networking opportunities.
    - AMIA offers a low student membership rate of $50 per calendar year (for students living within the U.S.) with proof of full-time matriculation.
    - AMIA offers student discount rates to AMIA meetings and discounts to special non-AMIA meetings. ((http://www.amia.org/about-amia/membership-categories)

- American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA)
  http://www.ania.org
    - ANIA-CARING membership gives you access to a network of over 2,200 informatics professionals in all 50 states and 34 countries.
    - The organization has an active e-mail list and job bank with employee-paid postings.
- ANIA offers a student membership option, which is $40 for one year
  https://www.ania.org/membership

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
  http://www.himss.org
    - The national organization and state chapters provide excellent professional development and networking opportunities.
    - HIMSS awards seven scholarships to select HIMSS student members who have demonstrated academic achievement. (https://foundation.himss.org/Scholarships)
    - HIMSS offers a low student membership rate of $30 with proof of full-time matriculation.

- Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI)
  http://www.allianceni.org
    - The member organizations are the many nursing specialty organizations that recognize informatics as an important dimension of, or influence upon, nursing practice.
    - Sponsored by the AMIA and HIMSS, the alliance provides a unified voice for nursing informatics and an organizational home for the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform (TIGER) initiative, http://thetigerinitiative.org/.
    - The alliance is an organization of organizations and does not have individual memberships.

JOBS AND SALARIES IN NURSING INFORMATICS

In 2020, HIMSS conducted a nursing informatics survey. Out of the 1,300 respondents, 49 percent reported a salary greater than $100,000.

Additionally, formal education and certificates, such as those offered by HIMSS and ANCC, appear to play an important role in compensation. Two-thirds of the respondents who hold a Master of Science in Informatics earn more than $75,000, while approximately half of those who do not have any training or only on-the-job training earn $75,000 or less. Half of the respondents who earn more than $75,000 hold a certificate, while only 37 percent of those who earn less than $75,000 hold a certificate.

The majority of respondents reported that they received additional compensation through benefits such as medical and/or dental insurance (94 percent), 401(k) or 403(b) Retirement Savings Plans (84 percent), Life Insurance (81 percent), Short Term Disability Insurance (69 percent), Tuition Reimbursement (68 percent), Long Term Disability Insurance (66 percent), Bonuses (30 percent), Money Purchase Plans (19 percent), and Profit Sharing Plans (9 percent).

There is a high demand for informatics nurse specialists from the UMSON Nursing Informatics program in: health care institutions, where they lead projects to develop, evaluate, and implement clinical information systems; universities, where they teach and conduct research; and the health informatics industry, where they develop new systems. Our alumni hold positions across the U.S. and abroad. Many of them have reported receiving multiple job offers as new graduates and multiple offers when they were ready to make a job change. Salaries were competitive, but best of all was the ardor that many expressed for a personally satisfying and fulfilling career.

PLANNING YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING INFORMATICS

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) offers the following programs in nursing informatics:

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Informatics
- Nursing Informatics Certificate (Post-Master's level)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), focus in Nursing Informatics
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), focus in Nursing Informatics

The MSN and Nursing Informatics Certificate (Post-Master's level) programs prepare nurses to enhance the quality of patient care and outcomes through the development, implementation, use, and evaluation of information tools. Graduates are able to analyze nursing information requirements, design system alternatives, manage information technology, identify and implement user training strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness of clinical and/or management information systems. Accelerating trends for the adoption and use of electronic information systems are creating a growing demand for informatics nurse specialists in health care organizations and in firms that develop and sell health care information technology. Our alumni provide leadership in the conceptualization, design, and research of computer-based information systems in health care organizations and in the informatics industry. These programs are offered entirely online and may be completed through either full-time or part-time study.

The DNP program, based on the recommendation of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's "Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing" and on its "Essentials of the Doctor Education for Advanced Nursing Practice," prepares graduates for executive-level practice in informatics. The PhD program prepares graduates for research careers advancing the science of nursing informatics. These programs require face-to-face study at UMSON in Baltimore.

PROGRAM PATHS AND ELIGIBILITY

Prospective Students with a BS in Nursing can apply for entry directly into the MSN program. The curriculum includes nursing core courses, management courses, and informatics courses.

Prospective Students with a BS in Nursing and a master's degree in a different field may apply for entry into the MSN program or the Nursing Informatics Certificate program (Post-Master's level). The curriculum of the MSN program provides the master's-level nursing courses needed for the leadership role of the informatics nurse specialist.

Prospective Students with an MS in Nursing may apply for entry into the Nursing Informatics Certificate Program (Post-Master's level). The program curriculum omits the master's-level nursing core courses and electives that are part of the MSN program. Students will have already learned that content

in their MS in Nursing and thus already have the foundation required for the leadership role of the informatics nurse specialist.

<u>Prospective Students with an MS in Nursing</u> may apply for entry into the DNP or the PhD program. In either program, students choosing to focus on informatics take informatics courses as electives.

COURSE SCHEDULING AND SEQUENCING: MSN AND POST-MS

The **nursing core courses** may be taken in any sequence:

Course		When Offered
NRSG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	Fall, Spring, Summer
NRSG 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership and Quality Improvement	Fall, Spring, Summer
NRSG 790	Application of Science for Evidence-based practice	Fall, Spring, Summer
NRSG 795	Biostatistics for Evidence Based Practice	Fall, Spring, Summer

The **management courses** may be taken in any sequence:

Course		When Offered
NURS 690	Managerial Health Finance	Fall, Spring
NURS 691	Organization Theories: Application to Health Service Management	Fall, Spring

In general, the **informatics courses** must be taken in the sequence shown. However, NURS 785 may precede or follow NURS 784 and NURS 786.

Course		When Offered
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	Fall, Spring
NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	Spring
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	Fall
NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	Spring, Summer
NURS 737	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	Fall
NURS 738	Practicum in Nursing Informatics	Spring
NURS 770	Human-Technology Interaction in Healthcare	Spring, Summer

Some courses have co-requisites or prerequisites

NURS 737 prerequisites: NURS 736, NURS 786, NRSG 790, NRSG 795
NURS 738 prerequisites: NURS 737, NURS 785, NURS 690, NRSG780, NRSG782
NURS 738 pre- or co-requisites: NURS 691, NURS 784
NURS 770 pre- or co-requisite: NURS 790

The plans of study for the MSN Program offer full-time or part-time study options with spring or fall matriculation.

The plans of study for the post-master's level certificate program offers part-time study with spring or fall matriculation. The program requires the major courses (fifteen credits) and support courses (nine credits) of the master's degree curriculum. Up to nine credits may be waived if students have previously taken courses the faculty deems to be equivalent.

COURSE SCHEDULING AND SEQUENCING: DNP AND PHD

Please visit the Doctoral Degree website for curriculum requirements:
http://nursing.umaryland.edu/academics/doctoral/.

MSN IN NURSING INFORMATICS
FULL-TIME PLAN OF STUDY: FALL AND SPRING MATRICULATION

Fall Matriculation

Semester I (Fall)

NRSG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRSG 790	Application of Science for Evidence-based Practice	3
NRSG 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership and Quality Improvement	3

Semester II (Spring)

NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3
NRSG 795	Biostatistics for Evidence Based Practice	3
NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3

Semester III (Summer)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3

Semester IV (Fall)

NURS 690	Managerial Health Finance	3
NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

Semester V (Spring)

NURS738*	Practicum in Nursing Informatics	4
NURS 691	Organization Theories: Application to Health Service Management	3
NURS 770	Human- Technology Interaction in Healthcare	3
	Total Credits	**40**

Spring Matriculation

Semester I (Spring)

NRSG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NURS 691	Organizational Theory: Application to Health Services Management	3
NRSG 790	Application of Science for Evidence-based Practice	3

Semester II (Summer)

NRSG 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership and Quality Improvement	3

Semester III (Fall)

NURS 690	Managerial Health Finance	3
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3
NRSG 795	Biostatistics for Evidence Based Practice	3

Semester IV (Spring)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3
NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3

Semester V (Summer)

NURS 770	Human- Technology Interaction in Healthcare	3

Semester VI (Fall)

NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

Semester VII (Spring)

NURS738*	Practicum in Nursing Informatics	4
	Total Credits	**40**

*Denotes courses that must be taken in this specialty. No waivers or transfer credits accepted.

MSN in Nursing Informatics
Part-Time Plan of Study: Fall and Spring Matriculation

Fall Matriculation

Semester I (Fall)

NRSG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRSG 790	Application of Science for Evidence-based Practice	3

Semester II (Spring)

NURS 691	Organization Theories: Application to Health Service Management	3
NRSG 795	Biostatistics for Evidence Based Practice	3

Semester III (Summer)

NRSG 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership and Quality Improvement	3

Semester IV (Fall)

NURS 690	Managerial Health Finance	3
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3

Semester V (Spring)

NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3
NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3

Semester VI (Fall)

NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

Semester VII (Spring)

NURS 738*	Practicum and Health Informatics	4
NURS 770	Human-Technology Interaction in Healthcare	3
Total Credits		**40**

Spring Matriculation

Semester I (Spring)

NRSG 780	Health Promotion and Population Health	3
NRSG 790	Application of Science for Evidence-based Practice	3

Semester II (Summer)

NRSG 782	Health Systems and Health Policy: Leadership and Quality Improvement	3

Semester III (Fall)

NRSG 795	Biostatistics for Evidence Based Practice	3
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3

Semester IV (Spring)

NURS 690	Managerial Health Finance	3
NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3

Semester V (Summer)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3

Semester VI (Fall)

NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

Semester VII (Spring)

NURS738*	Practicum and Health Informatics	4
NURS 691	Organization Theories: Application to Health Service Management	3

Semester VIII (Summer)

NURS 770**	Human-Technology Interaction in Healthcare	3
Total Credits		**40**

* Denotes courses that must be taken in this program. No waivers or transfer credits accepted

NURSING INFORMATICS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (Post-MS level)

PLAN OF STUDY: FALL AND SPRING MATRICULATION

Fall Matriculation

Semester I (Fall)

NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3
NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3

Semester II (Spring)

NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3

Semester III (Summer)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3

Semester IV (Fall)

NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3

Semester V (Spring)

NURS738*	Practicum and Health Informatics	4
	Total Credits	**19**

Spring Matriculation

Semester I (Spring)

NURS 786	Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care	3
NURS 736	Technology Solutions for Generating Knowledge in Health Care	3

Semester II (Summer)

NURS 785	Health Care Database Systems	3

Semester III (Fall)

NURS 784	Information Technology Project Management	3
NURS737*	Nursing Informatics Concepts and Practice in Systems Adoption	3

Semester IV (Spring)

NURS738*	Practicum and Health Informatics	4
	Total Credits	**19**

*Denotes courses that must be taken in this program. No waivers or transfer credits accepted.

WEB-BASED LEARNING

Web-based courses are designed as "anytime, anywhere" learning environments offered via the Internet using a Web browser. You will engage in course content and communicate with peers and instructors online. Therefore, you must have access to a computer with Internet connectivity and you will need to plan your learning time to fit your schedule. Each online course is a different experience, implementing various instructional strategies best suited for varying content and learning styles. Students taking a three-credit course spend at least six hours online each week in order to:

- View online lectures and presentations with audio/video
- Explore course-related Internet sites
- Engage in discussions and post messages
- Collaborate with other students during group projects
- Participate in research using electronic library resources
- Complete and submit course assignments

The main benefit of distance education is convenience - the freedom to take courses where you want on a more relaxed schedule than in a traditional course. Course content is divided into modules, which students are expected to digest on a set schedule. However, students choose when and where to complete each module before the deadline. Although you have more freedom in completing assignments, there may be occasions when you are required to interact with your instructor or classmates at pre-scheduled times.

The other benefit of distance education is flexibility in communicating with the supporting organization and instructor. Options include using both asynchronous (i.e. bulletin boards) or synchronous (i.e. chat rooms) communication modes, e-mail, fax, and telephones. Students also have access to a number of online services, including completing administration functions and accessing library resources.

With this freedom comes responsibility. Since you will be interacting with others remotely, you will be more responsible for your schedule than a traditional student will. Online students must be able to:

- Develop and maintain their own schedules for completing coursework
- Write clearly and effectively
- Adapt to working in a new learning environment
- Learn new computer skills to complete assignments

We invite you to explore the UMSON website and familiarize yourself with online education. Particularly visit http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/student-life/ where you will find links to university resources.

TUITION, FEES, FINANCIAL AID, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition and fees are the same for online and face-to-face instruction. Students pay in-state or out-of-state tuition and fees depending on their place of residence. Military students who are deployed to UMSON pay the in-state rate.

The Nursing Informatics MSN program participates in the <u>Academic Common Market</u>, meaning that students who reside in member states of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)* may request to pay in-state tuition if there is no nursing informatics program in a public university in their home state.

After receiving a letter of acceptance into the UMSON informatics specialty, students may apply to their home state's Department of Higher Education for approval to take our program at Maryland's in-state rate. If the request is approved, the home state's Department of Higher Education notifies the University of Maryland at the following address:

Dr. Bruce E. Jarrell
Senior Vice President and Chief Academic and Research Officer
Dean of Graduate School
Office of Academic Affairs
University of Maryland Baltimore
620 W. Lexington Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Tuition information may be found at: http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/admissions/tuition/.

Financial aid is available ONLY for degree-granting programs; thus, it is not available for the Post-MS program. Financial aid and scholarship information can be found at http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/admissions/financial-aid/.

*SREB Member States:

Alabama	Louisiana	Texas
Arkansas	Maryland	Virginia
Delaware	Mississippi	West Virginia
Florida	North Carolina	
Georgia	Oklahoma	
Kentucky	South Carolina	

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please visit the UMSON Admissions Office website, http://nursing.umaryland.edu/admissions, for detailed information about admissions requirements, application deadlines, and required application materials for each specific program. All materials, including transcripts and letters of reference, must be received before the deadline(s). Questions about the admissions process may be submitted via the website.

PREPARING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

When your application is reviewed, we consider your statement of goals, the transcripts from your prior academic work, your résumé, and your letters of reference. Here are some suggestions with regard to each.

Statement of Goals

The statement of goals should be specific to nursing informatics. What interests you about this specialty? What experience, if any, have you had with health care information technology? What contributions do you want to make to nursing and health care through the informatics expertise you gain in the program? What are your career objectives for the first five years after completing the program and for the long term?

Transcripts

You must arrange for your prior educational institutions to submit official transcripts, including transcripts from all formal education since high school. The UMB Graduate School will not permit us to offer admission to anyone whose undergraduate grade point average is less than 3.0. We also look for at least a 3.0 average in your science and nursing courses.

In rare cases, we will offer *provisional admission* to students whose grades are lower than the criterion. If you believe that your prior grades reflect a lower level of academic achievement than you are likely to attain in our program, please explain in your statement of goals. Provisional admission requires the student to take four courses specified by the program director during the first two semesters. The student will be dismissed from the program if he/she receives a grade lower than a B in any of the courses.

Résumé

Prospective Students with varying levels apply to the program. We look for patterns showing professional development and increasing accomplishment appropriate to the candidate's years of experience. Please provide a complete list of positions you have held and a brief summary of major responsibilities and significant accomplishments for each. In addition, please tell us about certifications, committee service, professional organization memberships, leadership experiences, volunteer work, and other information that will clearly demonstrate your professional accomplishments.

Letters of Reference

You are required to submit at least one letter of reference commenting on your professional performance as a nurse and the likelihood of your success in our academic program. You should request letters from supervisors or senior professionals with whom you have been affiliated. Ideally, these people should have the level of education for which you are applying and personal experience with graduate study. They should give concrete examples of your accomplishments in particular situations. If there is any evidence of aptitude for or experience with informatics, the referees should mention that.

SUMMER INSTITUTE IN NURSING INFORMATICS

Prospective students interested in graduate study in nursing informatics might want to consider attending UMSON's **Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics (SINI)**. The conference is held annually and offers a variety of intensive tutorial sessions along with posters, exhibits, and social networking events. If you can't attend in person, you and others in your institution can view plenary and high-interest concurrent sessions via webcast. For additional information, visit: http://nursing.umaryland.edu/sini.