



Course Syllabus: Health Care Organizations and Informatics

College of Robert D. & Carol Gunn Health Sciences & Human Services

NURS 4723 – X10

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Kayla Britton, MSN, RN

Office: virtual

Office hours: Fridays 9a-12p

Office phone: 817-239-0429

E-mail: kayla.britton@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course explores U.S. health care delivery organizations and payment systems. Perspectives of providers, the institutions insurers, and health care workers are described. The role of information in the continuity of care among institutions and interdisciplinary care teams are articulated.

Credit Hours

Three (3) credit hours

Learning Experiences

Course readings, self-study modules, discussions, writing assignments, self-reflection, quizzes, exams.

AACN Essentials

For further information regarding the AACN *Essentials* identified for each of the course objectives, refer to: [The 2021 Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice](#)

DEC Competencies

In the DEC Competencies below, the following designations apply: I: Provider of Patient Centered Care, II: Coordinator of Care, III: Patient Safety Advocate and IV: Member of the Health Care Team. For further information regarding the competencies identified for each course objective, refer to [Texas DEC's 2021](#)

Course Objectives

Course Objectives Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:	AACN	DEC Competencies
1. Describe the organization of healthcare delivery in the United States.	7.1a, 7.1b, 7.1c	IV: A, B, C
2. Identify the different payment mechanisms used to pay for health care in the United States, their advantages and disadvantages.	7.2a, 7.2c	IV: B, C, I
3. Distinguish the role of the professional registered nurse in cost containment within various healthcare delivery systems.	7.2c, 7.2e	IV: C, I
4. Distinguish the role of the professional registered nurse in quality of care within the U.S. healthcare delivery.	5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1f	I: B, D IV: G, H
5. Articulate the features of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how they will change current health care delivery.	3.4b, 7.2b, 7.2d	I: A, B IV: B, C
6. Review the concepts of information needs of the clinician, patient, institution, and insurer, and role of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) in all of these needs.	8.2a, 8.2e, 8.4a, 8.4c	II: B, D IV: D, E
7. Explain the relationship of the EHR to interprofessional communication/collaboration and continuity of care.	8.4a, 8.4b, 8.4d, 6.1b, 6.1e	IV: A, D, E, F

Course Objectives Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:	AACN	DEC Competencies
8. Articulate the role of information technology in providing safe, quality care.	8.3a, 8.3b,8.3e	II: B, D IV: D, G, H

Course Content

Please refer to the course schedule for course readings, assignments and due dates and times.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required

McGonigle, D., & Mastrian, K. (2021). *Nursing informatics and the foundation of knowledge* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN 9781284220469

American Psychological Association (APA). (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA. ISB 978433832161

Articles

Golf, M., & McLaughlin, C. (2016). Assessing HITECH implementation and lessons: 5 years later. *Milbank Quarterly*, 94(3), 654-687.
doi:10.1111/1468-0009.12214

Murray, T., Calhoun, M. & Phillipsen, N. (2011). Privacy, confidentiality, HIPAA, and HITECH: Implications for the health care practitioner. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. 7(9), 747-752. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org.proxygw.wrlc.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2011.07.005>

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2026-27](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Per Wilson School of Nursing (WSN) there is NO rounding of grades.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Discussion Board Posts	40%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Article Summary	10%
Self-Assessment	10%
HIPAA and Secondary Uses of Electronic Health Data Essay	20%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	74 - 79
D	65 - 73
F	64 and below

Per WSON, there will be no rounding of grades

Required Coursework

A course **average of at least 74% is required to pass this course**. Faculty reserves the right to make changes at any time to this syllabus. Students are to be accountable for all communications sent by faculty on Desire 2 Learn; therefore, you **must** check the site for announcements, assignments, and messages. Faculty prefers students use D2L as a means to make a specific request or to ask for content clarification. I forward your D2L emails to my MSU email. If you are unable to access D2L, you may contact faculty via campus email. Campus and phone appointments are available upon request. All assignments are run through Turn-it-In for a similarity plagiarism score. Scores above 20% similarity will receive a 30-point deduction. Students may revise and resubmit as many times as needed before the due date and time. Only the last

submission will be graded. Please refer to the acceptable and unacceptable use of AI policy found in this course syllabus.

Discussion Boards

Students are required to post a substantive response to each of the required questions. A substantive response is constructive and adds value to the weekly discussions. Substantive responses should be at least 150 words in length. Rarely should each require more than 250 words. Student responses need to reflect critical thought and demonstrate an understanding of the relevant concepts. All factual knowledge must be supported with appropriate citation of source. Response to the discussion board questions must be posted by **Friday 10:59 PM CST on or before the due date** on the Discussion Board section in the appropriate Discussion Question thread as stated in the course outline. Discussion questions posted more than 2 days late and or in the wrong thread will not be accepted. **Late postings will receive a 10-point deduction** for each day late and will not be accepted if posted more than 2 days late. It is the responsibility of the student to post the assignment on the correct thread by 10:59 PM CST on or prior to the due date. Participation in the classroom discussion is required. In addition to posting your Initial response to the discussion questions you must post a substantive response to at least two of your classmate's posts. Peer post may be made anytime during the week but must be made prior to the close of the week before the due date and time. Peer post made after the due date and close of the week will not be accepted for credit.

Late Work

Assignments more than 2 days late will not be accepted. Assignments submitted late which are within two days of the assignment original due date, will receive a ten-point deduction for each day they are late.

Extra Credit

There are NO extra credit awarded in this course.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students with verifiable extenuating circumstances, individual situation only under the discretion of the course faculty may work student if time permits to make-up missed assignments. This is at the discretion of the course faculty, and the late assignment policy applies to the assignment grading.

Important Dates

- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026.
Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Instructor Drop. An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude or for lack of engagement in the online learning environment. For example, failure to participate in online discussions as scheduled and on time is considered being absent. Prior to dropping a student from the class, the instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop at a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of WF or F the 6th week of a 10-week summer term. After this time, the grade will be an F. The date the Office of the Registrar receives the instructor drop form is the official drop date. RN Transition students must complete all nursing courses within a two-year period of time beginning with the first nursing course. If a student does not maintain enrollment for one semester they will be placed on inactive status. If a student were to withdraw for a second time from the same and/or any nursing course and/or received a second D or F in the same and/or any nursing course, even if the student has repeated a course and received a grade of C or above the student will be dismissed from the program.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Weather Closure Practices

Student safety is the number one consideration in regard to travel for bad weather. If it is icy or snowing in your area, e-mail your faculty to explain the situation. Use common sense in regard to travel. The MSU Nursing Program will follow the MSU campus practices for closure. If the campus closes, classes will go on-line using Zoom via D2L or another platform designated by your professor. For guidance of weather closure practices for MSU campus see guidance via the MSU webpage.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Use this area to tell the students what is scheduled for the duration of the class.

Please note the disclaimer above and include that with your schedule. There can be no blanks or merged cells in your table. You must put some kind of text in all the blanks such as: N/A or No content. You can use a dash (-) or "to" between dates, avoid using the @ sign unless in web address.

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
Week 1 Course Orientation and overview of the U.S. health care delivery system with a comparison of healthcare in other nations.	1. Describe the U.S. health care delivery system. 2. Describe health care delivery in other countries. Readings Bodenheimer & Grumbach, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 14, 15, and 16. Search a scholarly article that supports your post.	Discussion board assignment week 1. Initial post due Friday by 10:59 PM CST and 2 peers' posts due by Sunday at 10:59 PM CST.

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
Week 2 Overview of U.S. healthcare system: Who pays, who gets paid and what do patients get from it?	1. Identify the various entities that comprise the U.S. health care delivery system and their roles. 2. Describe the various payment methods that exist within the U.S. healthcare delivery system. 3. Describe how selected entities within the U.S. health care delivery system ensure safe and effective patient care. Readings Bodenheimer & Grumbach, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Search literature for a scholarly journal article of your choice regarding hospital organizational culture and its effect on the safety and well-being of hospitalized patients.	Quiz 1 due By Sunday 10:59 PM CST This quiz is over assigned reading Discussion board assignment week 2. Initial post due Friday by 10:59 PM CST and 2 peer posts due by Sunday at 10:59 PM CST.

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
Week 3 Overview of U.S. health care reform and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).	1. Describe the goals of U.S. health care reform. 2. Identify the main provisions of the ACA. 3. Describe areas where the U.S. faces challenges in reforming health care. Readings Article: Implications of ACA on nursing practice. Found in Week 3 Resources. Explore these websites: aca/Data Note: Strongly Held Views on the ACA Compare Proposals to Replace the ACA What's the near term outlook for the ACA?	Discussion for week 3 Initial discussion post due by Friday 10:59PM CST. The 2 peer posts are due by Sunday 10:59PM CST.
Week 4 Role of the professional nurse	1. Identify the unique role of the professional nurse in the U.S. 2. Identify areas where the role of the professional nurse overlaps with that of other members to the interdisciplinary health care team. Readings These articles are located in resources in week 4. Article: Organizational factors and patient safety culture. Article: Missed care and heart failure readmissions.	Discussion for week 4. Initial discussion post due by Friday 10:59PM CST. The 2 peer posts are due by Sunday 10:59PM CST.

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
Week 5 Overview informatics; self assessment of computer and information literacy	1. Review concepts of information and computer literacy as related to patient care. 2. Explain the relationship between information needs of the: clinician, patient, institution, and insurer and the role of the electronic health record (EHR) in all of these needs. 3. Explain the relationship of the EHR to inter-professional communication, collaboration and continuity of care. 4. Articulate the role of information technology in providing safe and quality care. Readings McGonigle & Mastrian Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13 & 14. <u>Informatics The Tiger Project</u> Read the McGonigle & Mastrian chapters and the Tiger Project and TIGER competencies that are linked in D2L to familiarize yourself with the healthcare industry's expectations of nurses	Submit your Self- assessment results and Essay to the drop box by Sunday, 10:59 PM CST in Assignments. Complete the two self-assessments linked in D2L. After completion, write 2-3 paragraphs about your self assessment results and submit to the drop box.

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
	related to information literacy.	
Week 6 Legislative aspects of nursing informatics: HITECH and HIPAA	1. Describe the U.S. governmental process and structure for regulating health information technology (health IT). 2. Describe and explain the following informatics concepts: privacy, security, confidentiality, integrity, availability, covered entity, and business associate. 3. Analyze current federal and state laws and regulations and their implications for privacy and security practices and procedures. Readings McGonigle & Mastrian, Chapter 8. Articles found in resources week 6. Privacy, confidentiality, HIPAA, and HITECH: Implications for the health care practitioner. Assessing HITECH Implementation and lessons.	HIPAA and Secondary Uses of Electronic Health Data Essay due by Sunday 10:59 PM CST in the assignments drop box

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge, Self-determined competence).	Due Date
Week 7 Overview of nursing informatics; self - assessment of computer and information	1. Define healthcare informatics. 2. Discuss the significance of health informatics within healthcare delivery. 3. Analyze terms and definitions associated with the electronic health record (EHR). 4. Examine EHR applications used in the clinical setting. 5. Describe the use of telehealth to enable self-care in consumer informatics. Readings McGonigle & Mastrian: Chapters 12, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29 & 30. Quiz 2 will cover informatics concepts, terms, EHR components, HITECH Act, HIPAA, and Clinical information systems	Quiz 2 due by Sunday 10:59 CST PM. Discussion for week 7 Initial post due by Friday 10:59PM CST. The 2 posts are due by Sunday 10:59 PM CST.
Week 8 Challenges of EBP and current issues	Readings Review reading materials presented during course.	Discussion for week 8 Initial post due by Wednesday 10:59PM CST. No responses to peers required. No late posts accepted this week. Course will close at midnight.