



Course Syllabus: Health Care Organizations and Informatics
College of Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences & Human Services
NURS 4723
Spring 2026
Contact Information

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Course Description

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1. This course explores U.S. health care delivery organizations and payment systems.
2. Perspectives of providers, institutions insurers, and health care workers are described.
3. The role of information in the continuity of care among institutions and inter-disciplinary care teams is articulated.
4. AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to: [The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice](#)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the organization of healthcare delivery in the United States (AACN II-3).
2. Identify the different payment mechanisms used to pay for health care in the United States, their advantages and disadvantages.
3. Distinguish the role of the Registered Nurse in cost containment within (AACN II-3).
4. Distinguish the role of the Professional Registered Nurse in quality of care within the U.S. healthcare delivery (AACN II-5).
5. Articulate the features of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how they will change current health care delivery (AACN V-7,8,9).

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 (AACN IV-4).
7. Explain the relationship of the EHR to inter-professional communication/collaboration and continuity of care (AACN IV-3).
8. Articulate the role of information technology in providing safe, quality care (AACN IV-7).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Recommended textbooks:

Textbook Name	Author	ISBN
<i>Nursing informatics and the foundation of knowledge</i> (5 th edition).	McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021).	978-1-284-22046-9
<i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> . (7 th edition). Washington, D.C.	American Psychological Association (APA)(2019).	978-1-433-83216-1

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 2025-2026

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 individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

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%

Assignments	Points
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade. **There will be no rounding of grades.**

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

Projects Required

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.

Discussion Board

You must 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. Your 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 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 10:50 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 two days late will not be accepted. Assignments submitted late which are within two days of the due date will receive a ten-point deduction for each day they are late.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **April 29, 2026**

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.

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](#).

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.

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).

Disability Support Services

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law all students with disabilities are

guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disability. This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: “No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity.” The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at:

Disability Support Services
Student Wellness Center
Phone: 940-397-4140
Email: disabilityservices@msutexas.edu
Website: [DSS Webpage](#)

Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) **is permitted** in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Fine-tuning your research questions
- Checking grammar and style

The use of generative AI tools **is not permitted** in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board
- Prompts assigned to you or content that you put into a Zoom chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned you unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be appropriately documented and cited to stay compliant with university policies on academic honesty. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be given a grade of **zero**. When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification. Any Turnitin AI detectable **score over 20% will result in a 0 for that assignment**.

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.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

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

Course Schedule

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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the U.S. health care delivery system. Describe health care delivery in other countries. Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14. Search a scholarly article that supports your post.	Discussion board assignment week 1. Initial post due Friday by 10:59 PM and 2 peer posts due by Sunday at 10:59 PM.

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?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the various entities that comprise the U.S. health care delivery system and their roles. Describe the various payment methods that exist within the U.S. healthcare delivery system. Describe how selected entities within the U.S. health care delivery system 	Quiz 1 due By Sunday 10:59 PM This quiz is over assigned readings/information. Discussion board assignment week 2. Initial post due Friday by 10:59 PM and 2 peer

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self- determined competence)	Due Date
	<p>ensure safe and effective patient care.</p> <p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14.</p> <p>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.</p>	posts due by Sunday at 10:59 PM.
<p>Week 3 Overview of U.S. health care reform and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Readings: Found in Week 3 Resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Implications of ACA on nursing practice. <p>Explore these websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aca/Data Note: Strongly Held Views on the ACA • Compare Proposals to Replace the ACA • What's the near term outlook for the ACA? 	<p>Discussion for week 3 Initial discussion post due by Friday 10:59PM. The 2 peer posts are due by Sunday 10:59PM.</p>

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self- determined competence)	Due Date
<p>Week 4 Role of the professional nurse</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 of the 	<p>Discussion for week 4. Initial discussion post due by Friday 10:59PM. The 2 peer posts are due by Sunday 10:59PM Eastern Standard Time.</p>

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self-determined competence)	Due Date
	<p>interdisciplinary health care team.</p> <p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: 1, 15, 16, 23, 25</p> <p>Found in Week 4 resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Organizational factors and patient safety culture. • Article: Missed care and heart failure readmissions. 	
<p>Week 5 Overview of nursing informatics; self-assessment of computer and information literacy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14.</p> <p>Informatics The Tiger Project</p> <p>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 related to information literacy.</p>	<p>Submit your Self-assessment results and Essay to the drop box by Sunday, 10:59 PM in Assignments.</p> <p>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.</p>

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self-determined competence)	Due Date
<p>Week 6 Legislative aspects of nursing informatics: HITECH and HIPAA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: 8</p> <p>Articles found in resources week 6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy, confidentiality, HIPAA, and HITECH: Implications for the health care practitioner. • Assessing HITECH Implementation and lessons. 	<p>HIPAA and Secondary Uses of Electronic Health Data Essay due by Sunday 10:59 PM in the assignments drop box</p>

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self-determined competence)	Due Date
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Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self-determined competence)	Due Date
<p>Week 7 Overview of nursing informatics; self-assessment of computer and information</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021). Chapters: 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23.</p> <p>Quiz 2 will cover informatics concepts, terms, EHR components, HITECH Act, HIPAA, and Clinical information systems</p>	<p>Quiz 2 due by Sunday 10:59 PM.</p> <p>Discussion for week 7 Initial post due by Friday 10:59PM. The 2 posts are due by Sunday 10:59 PM.</p>

Week	Weekly Objectives (To be completed as independent study, building upon prior knowledge. Self-determined competence)	Due Date
<p>Week 8 Challenges of EBP and current issues</p>	<p>Readings McGonigle, D. & Mastrian, K. (2021).</p> <p>Review reading materials presented during course.</p>	<p>Discussion for week 8 Initial post due by Wednesday 10:59PM. No responses to peers required. No late posts accepted this week. Course will close at midnight.</p>