Concordia University Texas / Nursing Informatics MSN Track 2015 Information Sheet

Nursing informatics (NI) is the specialty that integrates nursing science with multiple information management and analytical sciences to identify, define, manage, and communicate data, information, knowledge, and wisdom in nursing practice. Although many might believe that nursing informatics covers only the technology side of nursing and think of this specialty similar to a technical degree, nursing informatics has emerged to mean how we use, interpret, manage and communicate the data collected by computers in healthcare using our nursing knowledge. All nurses do this on different levels to practice safe patient care; it is an important part of our nursing role in today's world.

The American Nurses Association in 2015 recognized the NI as a science of specialty and published the *Scope and Standards of for NI Practice*. They categorized the knowledge from specialized NI curriculum into three areas: Computer literacy, information literacy and professional development leadership. Although there are different ways for nurses to obtain training in the science of nursing informatics, it is commonly recognized today that Informatics Nurse Specialists have had formalized preparation at the graduate level in informatics and informatics nurses have gained on the job training in the field but do not have educational preparation at the graduate level.

The practicum experience in the informatics track at Concordia University Texas focuses on healthcare project management skill development within nursing informatics experiences and will consist of 3 semesters of hands on mentored experiences following a graduate project model. The student decides the place and time and the mentor for the practicums, but it generally equals 8.5 hours per week. Using the employer as a place for the practicum experiences allows the students to give back while simultaneously establishing their potential as a nurse informaticist in the workplace.

The below links help nurses explore the scope and standards, job practices, salary levels and certifications available for Nursing Informaticists. (As with all website offerings, these are subject to change, but all are offered by the two associations mentioned below)

1.   Websites:

American Nurses Association (www.nursingworld.org)

Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (www.himss.org)

2.   Watch Video about what Nursing Informatics is provided by the HealthCare Information and Management Systems Society:
http://www.himss.org/ResourceLibrary/genResourceDetailWebinar.aspx?ItemNumber=29862

3.   Explore Survey on salaries and jobs for Informaticists:
http://www.himss.org/ResourceLibrary/genResourceDetailPDF.aspx?ItemNumber=28559

4.   Explore certification you are eligible to take on Nursing Informatics after graduation from informatics track:
http://www.nursecredentialing.org/InformaticsNursing

5.   Explore standards of Nursing Informatics from American Nurses Association:
http://nursingworld.org/functionalmenucategories/aboutana/leadership-governance/newcnpe/cnpemembersonly/pastmeetings/september2007/nursingscopestandardsdraft.pdf