BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS, MS

School of Interdisciplinary Informatics, College of Information Science & Technology

Vision Statement
The vision of this program is to develop the next generation of biomedical specialists who are uniquely positioned to advance research and practice in contemporary information and knowledge management that impact biomedical, clinical and translational research, healthcare services, healthcare practice, public health care, and healthcare delivery in general. Graduates will be able to use their preparation to apply and investigate information and communication technologies to solve problems in the related biomedical fields in a comprehensive, competitive and effective way.

The program is designed as a research-oriented program with the goals of preparing graduate students to conduct advanced basic and applied research while capably serving as prospective employees in academic research as well as the IT healthcare industry. The program is geared towards motivated traditional students and technology specialists with the appropriate educational background that are ready to expand their knowledge of contemporary biomedical informatics issues and become biomedical informatics in academic, clinical, and organizational settings.

Program Contact Information
Dario Ghersi, PhD, Graduate Program Chair (GPC)
173B Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI)
402.554.2097
dghersi@unomaha.edu

Ms. Leslie Planos, Advisor
176C Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI)
402.554.3819
iplanos@unomaha.edu

Ms. Vanessa Hatfield-Reeker, Advisor
175C Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI)
402.554.3819
whatfield@unomaha.edu

Program Website (https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-information-science-and-technology/academics/degrees-programs.php)

Other Program-Related Information
The College of IS&T offers an integrated undergraduate/graduate (IUG) track in Biomedical Informatics to provide outstanding undergraduate students in the College of IS&T an option to complete the BS (undergraduate) degree in Bioinformatics and the MS (graduate) degree in Biomedical Informatics in five years (141 total hours). The IUG program is designed for dedicated students who are motivated and willing to take on the challenges relating to graduate education earlier than other students do. As such, the program involves both intensive study and preparation in the Biomedical Informatics field. Students interested in this option will work closely with an advisor and a faculty mentor to develop an integrated plan of study.

Admissions
Application Deadlines (Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021)
• Fall: July 1
• Spring: December 1
• Summer: April 1

Program-Specific Requirements
1. All applicants must have the equivalent of a four-year undergraduate degree.
2. Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States or a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list (https://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/prospective-students/Proof%20of%20English%20Proficiency-%20International.pdf), must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission. Minimum acceptable scores are:
   a. Paper-based TOEFL: 550
   b. Internet-based TOEFL: 80
   c. IELTS: 6.5
   d. PTE: 53
3. International applicants without a baccalaureate or equivalent degree from the United States are required to submit GRE scores. Minimum acceptable scores are:
   a. Verbal: 146
   b. Quantitative: 154
4. Applicants with International Transcripts: Any applicant to this program who has completed undergraduate or graduate coursework at an international higher education institution outside of the United States may submit transcripts and degree certificates (with an English translation) in lieu of a course-by-course transcript evaluation from World Education Services (https://www.wes.org/) (WES), Educational Credential Evaluators (https://www.ece.org/) (ECE), or Educational Perspectives (https://www.edperspective.org/). This graduate program will conduct an in-house credential evaluation of your transcript(s).
   • UNO reserves the right to require a course-by-course evaluation from WES, ECE, or Educational Perspectives if the program is unable to complete an evaluation, or should there be any questions or concerns about the documentation that is received. You will be notified by the individual program if an external course-by-course evaluation is required.
   • “Note: If you are admitted, official transcripts and degree certificates (with an English translation)/official course-by-course transcript evaluation, and any applicable official exam scores are required.
5. Three (3) letters of recommendation from references who are able to give an in-depth evaluation of your strengths and weaknesses with respect to academic work, and who are competent to judge your probability of success in graduate school.
6. Writing sample from work or previous academic experiences. Alternatively, if you do not have a writing sample, please submit a two-page, double-spaced, word-processed essay that addresses the following two topics:
   a. Discussion of two accomplishments that demonstrate your potential for success in the graduate program.
   b. Discussion of your unique personal qualities and life experiences that distinguish you from other applicants to our graduate program.
7. Resume (include work experience and background)
8. For unconditional admission, students must meet Graduate College admission standards, including a 3.0 GPA or higher in the last two years
of undergraduate work. Students not meeting these standards may be considered for provisional admission.

9. Interview (optional): Although not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to arrange for an interview either one or more members of the Graduate Program Committee by directly contacting the committee chair. Telephone interviews are highly recommended for applicants outside the local area.

Admission Criteria
All applicants are considered on an individual basis. All applicants for the MS in BMI program must have earned a bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited, four-year institution of higher learning or the equivalent foreign institution and earned a GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Since many factors influence the success of a graduate student, an applicant’s maturity, motivation, employment history, writing samples, work experience and other accomplishments will also be considered in making admission decisions. In addition, for international applicants, TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE scores will be used along with other factors outlined above to make an admission recommendation.

Degree Requirements
Science Foundation Requirements
Foundation courses ensure that all students in the MS BMI program have a strong foundation on which to build the rest of the program. These courses not only provide essential prerequisite knowledge and skills for subsequent classes in the program, but they also contain a distinct body of knowledge that is an important part of the BMI professional’s education. All foundation courses are required for all students. However, students who have obtained an undergraduate BIOI degree will typically already have this foundation. In such a case, most, if not all, foundation courses are waived. Students with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines, including computer science, management information systems, or engineering, will usually require one or more foundation courses. Occasionally, a student’s work experience may be sufficient to waive one or more of the foundation courses.

Waivers for foundation courses are granted by the chair of the graduate program committee upon the recommendation of the faculty member who is responsible for an individual course. Students requesting a waiver for a particular course should be prepared to meet with a faculty member and answer questions in the area of the course. They should bring to the meeting any relevant transcripts, course syllabi, course material, or evidence of practical experience. Some foundation courses may have an option for testing out.

Applicants should have background in anatomy, physiology, cell biology or equivalent (any health science degree). Students with degrees in other disciplines will usually have to take foundation courses.

Foundation courses cannot be used to satisfy the 36 semester hours required for the MS in biomedical informatics degree. Students who have not completed all the foundation course requirements may be admitted on a provisional status until those requirements have been completed. All foundation courses must be completed prior to or concurrent with the first six (6) hours of MS in BMI graduate coursework.

Information Technology Foundation Requirements
Foundation courses ensure that all students in the MS BMI program have a strong foundation on which to build the rest of the program. These courses not only provide essential prerequisite knowledge and skills for subsequent classes in the program, but they also contain a distinct body of knowledge that is an important part of the BMI professional’s education. All foundation courses are required for all students. However, students who have obtained an undergraduate BIOI degree will typically already have this foundation. In such a case, most, if not all, foundation courses are waived. Students with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines, including computer science, management information systems, or engineering, will usually require one or more foundation courses. Occasionally, a student’s work experience may be sufficient to waive one or more of the foundation courses.

Waivers for foundation courses are granted by the chair of the graduate program committee upon the recommendation of the faculty member who is responsible for an individual course. Students requesting a waiver for a particular course should be prepared to meet with a faculty member and answer questions in the area of the course. They should bring to the meeting any relevant transcripts, course syllabi, course material, or evidence of practical experience. Some foundation courses may have an option for testing out.

Applicants should have background in programming languages, data structures & algorithms, statistics, math or experimental methods (any engineering, computer science related degree). Students with degrees in other disciplines will usually have to take foundation courses.

Foundation courses cannot be used to satisfy the 36 semester hours required for the MS in biomedical informatics degree. Students who have not completed all the foundation course requirements may be admitted on a provisional status until those requirements have been completed. All foundation courses must be completed prior to or concurrent with the first six (6) hours of MS in BMI graduate coursework.

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI 1200</td>
<td>COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES</td>
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<td>CSCI 1204</td>
<td>COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES LABORATORY</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIST 1400</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CIST 2500</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED STATISTICS FOR IS&amp;T</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CSCI 1620</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE II</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI 3320</td>
<td>DATA STRUCTURES</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI 8010</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE</td>
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Requirements

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<tr>
<td>BMI 8000</td>
<td>ADVANCES IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS</td>
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<td>BMI 8100</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS</td>
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<td>BMI 8300</td>
<td>PUBLIC HEALTH GENOMICICS</td>
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<td>ISQA 8156</td>
<td>ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS FOR IS&amp;T</td>
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Select two of the following:
BMI 8400 LINEAR ALGEBRA FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING AND AI
BMI 8866 BIOINFORMATICS ALGORITHMS
CSCI/MATH 8050 ALGORITHMIC GRAPH THEORY
CSCI/MATH 8156 GRAPH THEORY & APPLICATIONS
CSCI 8456 INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ISQA 8106 INFORMATION SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE AND ORGANIZATION
ISQA 8220 ADVANCED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DESIGN
ISQA 8410 DATA MANAGEMENT

Research Electives  6
Select two of the following:
BIOI 8850 SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIOINFORMATICS
BMI 8020 ADVANCED COURSE IN BIOINFORMATICS
ISQA 8080 SEMINAR IN MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
ISQA 8160 APPLIED DISTRIBUTION FREE STATISTICS
ISQA 8340 APPLIED REGRESSION ANALYSIS
ISQA 9120 APPLIED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND ANALYSIS

Track Electives  6
Select one of the following (see details below):
Bioinformatics Track
Health Informatics Track
BMI 8990 THESIS IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS  6

Total Credits  36

Bioinformatics Track Electives

Code  Title  Credits
BIOL 8136 MOLECULAR GENETICS  6
BMI 8080 SEMINAR IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS
BMI 8850 BIOMEDICINE FOR THE NONMEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
BMI 8896 GENETIC SEQUENCE ANALYSIS
BMI 8900 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN BIOINFORMATICS
BMI 8970 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN BIOINFORMATICS
CSCI 8340 DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS II
CSCI 8876 DATABASE SEARCH AND PATTERN DISCOVERY IN BIOINFORMATICS
ISQA 8460 INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT), BIG DATA AND THE CLOUD
ISQA 8750 STORYTELLING WITH DATA

Total Credits  6

Health Informatics Track Electives

Code  Title  Credits
Select 6 hours from the following:  6
BMI 8080 SEMINAR IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS
BMI 8086 SPECIAL TOPICS: HEALTH INFORMATICS RESEARCH METHODS

Exit Requirements
• Thesis Option: BMI 8990 6 Hours
  • All candidates should carefully review the Graduate College requirements for forming a Supervisory Committee, Thesis/Thesis Equivalent Proposal Approval Forms and final approval and submission of a thesis. This committee will be responsible for planning and supervising the student's thesis in coordination with the the BMI GPC. A supervisory committee shall be formally established for each student upon completion of at least nine (9) hours of coursework or one year (which ever comes first) in the MS program. This committee will have responsible for planning and supervising the student's thesis in coordination with the campus-based BMI graduate program committee.