

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND SAFETY

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The Online Master of Science in Health Care Quality and Safety degree program is targeted toward health care professionals engaged or planning to be engaged in leadership roles in the quality and safety areas in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other health care organizations. Professionals in health care quality and safety manage the strategic and operational aspects of quality operations; establish goals and standards; lead the quality improvement programs; provide training and coaching in quality improvement tools and techniques; develop, implement and monitor measures to assess quality performance; direct organization-wide quality initiatives including the National Patient Safety Initiatives; and direct ongoing monitoring of accreditation survey readiness activities.

Applicants seeking admission to the graduate program in Health Care Quality and Safety must submit the following directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. A Graduate Studies Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>) with the application fee
2. Undergraduate degree from an accredited U.S. institution; exceptions may be made with majority approval by the admissions committee.
3. Official transcript(s) from all postsecondary schools attended
4. Minimum GPA of 3.0
5. Official scores for the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, DAT, LSAT, USMLE, or other graduate school entrance exams obtained within the last 5 years. This requirement may be waived if any of the following apply:
 - a. Graduate or professional degree from U.S. accredited institutions
 - b. Successfully completed 9 or more hours of graduate coursework from an accredited institution in the U.S. with no grade below a B
 - c. Evidence of a minimum of 3 years of professional supervisory experience in healthcare
 - d. Majority approval by the admissions committee
6. Writing samples:
 - a. Please include a 250-500 word essay describing your reasons for undertaking study at Sam Houston State University, and your academic objectives, career goals, and related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, relevant to your program of interest. Include any substantial accomplishments.
 - b. Please provide a 500 word description of one key issue in Healthcare Quality or Patient Safety and discuss possible solutions.
7. Two letters of recommendation from:
 - a. Individuals who served in a supervisory capacity, and who can strongly attest to the applicant's work ethic, and/or
 - b. Academic instructors who can strongly attest to the applicant's academic ability
8. A CV or resume
9. Evidence of health care work experience in clinical or non-clinical settings preferred
10. On-campus, video, or phone interview with a member of the MSHCQ&S admissions committee for selected competitive applicants meeting all admissions criteria
11. The program currently does not accept international students on F-1 student visas. If you are on another type of visa, or have additional questions regarding your eligibility to apply, please, contact the Office of International Programs at 936-294-4737 or nld015@shsu.edu.

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Science in Health Care Quality and Safety (Non-Thesis Option)		
Core Coursework		
HLTH 5355	Health Services Administration	3
HLTH 5371	Health Care Quality & Safety	3
HLTH 5375	Statistical Design in Health	3
HLTH 5373	Risk Mgmt in Health Care Orgs	3
HLTH 5378	Health Care Informatics	3
HLTH 5381	Health Economics and Finance	3
HLTH 5384	Quality and Safety Public Reporting Systems	3
HLTH 6371	Advanced Concepts in Health Care Quality	3
HLTH 6373	Leading Change in Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH 6384	Health Quality & Safety Capstone	3
Internship		
HLTH 6397	Internship	3
Electives		

Select any HLTH 5000 or 6000 level course or approved by advisor	3
Total Hours	36

Note: All courses require Graduate Standing in the program.

The non-thesis track of the Master of Science in Health Care Quality and Safety program requires a real-life health care quality or safety improvement capstone project to be completed by the student prior to awarding the degree. The project will be completed as part of the required capstone course during the last semester of the student's studies. The thesis track, however, requires a more academic research based thesis instead of the capstone project to be completed before awarding the degree. For more, information, please, consult with the program advisor.

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Science in Health Care Quality Safety (Thesis Option)		
Core Coursework		
HLTH 5355	Health Services Administration	3
HLTH 5371	Health Care Quality & Safety	3
HLTH 5373	Risk Mgmt in Health Care Orgs	3
HLTH 5374	Research Seminar	3
HLTH 5375	Statistical Design in Health	3
HLTH 5378	Health Care Informatics	3
HLTH 6371	Advanced Concepts in Health Care Quality	3
HLTH 6373	Leading Change in Health Care Organizations	3
Thesis		
HLTH 6098	Thesis I	3
HLTH 6099	Thesis II	3
Electives		
Select two courses from the options below (must be approved by Graduate Coordinator)		6
HLTH 5381	Health Economics and Finance	
HLTH 5384	Quality and Safety Public Reporting Systems	
HLTH 6397	Internship	
Total Hours		36

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MS in Health Care Quality and Safety is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the health care quality and safety profession.
- Demonstrate ability to recognize and solve health care quality and/or safety issues.
- Participate in research of and find solutions to problems in the field of Health Care Quality and Safety.
- Recognize leadership and management theories and practices, including those of change management.
- Apply knowledge of the current United States health care system in solving problems.