

Applied Health Informatics Certificate Program

Student Handbook (Pilot Cohort)

March 28 – September 30, 2026

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (GCRT) – African Research Group for
Oncology (ARGO)



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center



1. Welcome Message from the Program Director

Welcome to the Applied Health Informatics Certificate Program, a competency-based, practice-focused learning experience developed to strengthen digital health capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and underserved settings.

Our mission is to equip you with practical, workforce-ready skills to improve healthcare workflows, health information systems, documentation, data quality, cancer registries, and public health information use.

We are delighted to have you join this global community of learners and practitioners.

2. Program Overview and Goals

A practical, six-month online certificate program building real-world health informatics skills for healthcare and IT professionals working in LMICs and low-resource settings. This is a Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO) supported online certificate program building practical health informatics capacity to advance cancer care, research, and health equity in LMICs, and underserved U.S. communities. Participants will be paired with carefully vetted industry and academic experts in specific fields.

The program emphasizes digital transformation, EHR implementation, public health systems, research, global health frameworks, and applied informatics skills.

The curriculum integrates case studies from the United States and low resource settings, open-source health IT platforms, and policies governing digital health systems. The certificate program prepares clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health officers, HIM staff, data/IT specialists, and health program managers to:

- Apply health informatics principles in real clinical and public health environments.
- Strengthen data quality, documentation, and decision-support processes.
- Support digital health implementation, EHR optimization, and informatics workflows.
- Build competencies needed for health system strengthening, cancer control, and research.

3. Competency Framework

The curriculum aligns with:

- World Health Organization (WHO) Digital Health Workforce Framework
- International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) Competency Framework for Health Informatics

Core competencies include:

- Digital health literacy and applied informatics skills
- Clinical & public health workflow understanding
- Health data governance and quality
- Data standards & interoperability

- Health Information Systems/Electronic Health Record systems & implementation
- Applied analytics & decision support
- Ethical, secure, responsible data use

4. Program Structure

Core Courses

The program is mostly asynchronous delivery with monthly live touchpoints. It comprises of six core courses covering foundational, clinical, systems, public health, standards, and research informatics domains.

Elective Courses (Choose One)

Examples: Telehealth, Imaging Informatics, Pharmacy Informatics, Lab/Pathology Informatics.

Capstone Project

A cumulative, workplace-based project addressing a real informatics challenge—documentation, registry workflow, data quality, interoperability, oncology system strengthening, or digital implementation.

Tracks

- **CCD – Clinical & Care Delivery Track**
- **DHS – Digital Health Systems Track**

5. Academic Calendar

- Orientation: Week 1
- Core Courses: Months 1–6
- Elective Window: Mid-program
- Capstone Development: Ongoing (all months), final presentation in Month 6

Each course runs 3–4 weeks with structured weekly expectations.

6. Expectations for Asynchronous Learning

- Check Moodle at least 3–4 times per week.
- Complete weekly lessons, readings, quizzes, and assignments.
- Participate in discussion forums and peer engagement.
- Stay aligned with weekly deadlines.

Low-bandwidth support: downloadable PDFs, low-resolution videos, mobile access.

7. Attendance & Engagement Expectations

Active participation is required:

- Weekly activity completion
- Discussion contributions
- Capstone development milestones
- Attendance or viewing of recordings for monthly live sessions

8. Time Commitment Guidance

Expect 6–8 hours per week, including:

- Mini-lectures
- Applied assignments
- Reading packets
- Discussions
- Capstone tasks

9. Capstone Project Timeline & Milestones

- **Month 1:** Problem statement + context
- **Month 2–3:** Workflow mapping + gap analysis
- **Month 4–5:** Prototype development
- **Month 6:** Final evaluation plan + presentation

Deliverables and templates will be provided in the **Capstone Guide**.

10. Graduation Requirements

To successfully earn the certificate, learners must complete:

1. Coursework Requirement

- 6 Core Courses + 1 Elective - Minimum score: 80% overall

2. Capstone Requirement

- Approved capstone proposal
- Completed final capstone project
- Final presentation

3. Engagement Requirement

- 80% participation rate (discussions, quizzes, forums, live/recording recaps)

11. Assessment & Grading

Components typically include:

- Weekly quizzes & applied practical assignments
- Discussion/reflection contributions
- Capstone milestones + final capstone

Late Work: Submit by deadlines; notify instructors early if challenges arise.

Integrity: All submitted work must be original and correctly cited.

12. Academic Integrity & Citation Norms

- Cite all sources using provided formats.
- Do not upload any identifiable patient data.
- Use de-identified or simulated data only.

Plagiarism or data breaches may result in removal from the program.

13. Discussion Forum Etiquette

- Be respectful, professional, and concise.
- Engage constructively and acknowledge different viewpoints.
- Keep posts relevant and supportive.

14. Code of Conduct

- Be professional and collegial.
- Protect confidentiality and data integrity.
- Uphold academic honesty.
- Engage respectfully with global peers.

15. Technology Requirements

- Modern browser (Chrome/Firefox)
- Ability to view PDFs, slides, and low-bandwidth videos
- Reliable internet (mobile data acceptable)
- Smartphone or computer access

16. Key Contacts & Support Channels

- Program Coordination: argo.msk.healthinformatics@gmail.com
- Capstone Advisors:
- Technical Support: argo.msk.healthinformatics@gmail.com
- Office Hours: Monthly or by appointment
- Discussion Channels: As provided in Moodle

17. Strategies for Success (Working Professionals)

- Set weekly study blocks.
- Download weekly packets for offline access.
- Connect course tasks to your workplace challenges.
- Use your learning pod/peer group.
- Ask questions early.