

Key differences between the Digital Health Systems (DHS) & Clinical & Care Delivery (CCD) tracks in the Applied Health Informatics Certificate Program.

The Applied Health Informatics Certificate Program has two distinct DHS & CCD tracks. Both tracks share a strong foundation in health informatics, but they are designed for different types of professional roles and career goals.

What Both Tracks Have in Common

All students, regardless of track, will:

- Learn core health informatics concepts
- Understand health systems, data flow, and interoperability
- Work with LMIC-appropriate, real-world examples
- Complete an applied capstone project
- Focus on practical problem-solving rather than theory

The key difference between the tracks is how and where informatics skills are applied.

Clinical & Care Delivery (CD) Track

Who This Track Is For:

The CCD track is designed for learners who:

- Work close to patient care
- Are involved in clinical documentation, nursing workflow, or case management
- Want to improve data quality at the point of care
- Often support clinicians or serve as clinical informatics leads

Typical backgrounds include:

- Nurses and nurse managers
- Clinicians and physician assistants
- Case managers and care coordinators
- Health Information Management (HIM) staff
- Oncology clinicians and registry staff

Main Focus of the CCD Track

The CCD track focuses on how data is created during patient care.

You will learn to:

- Improve clinical and nursing documentation
- Map and strengthen workflows in clinics and wards
- Reduce missing or poor-quality data at the source
- Support safe, efficient, patient-centered care

Key question the CCD track answers:

“How can we improve the way data is documented during patient care so it can be used downstream?”

Examples of CCD-Focused Projects

- Improving cancer staging documentation at clinic visits
- Redesigning nursing notes or care plans
- Fixing discharge summaries that affect follow-up
- Reducing documentation burden while improving data completeness

Capstone Project Styles usually focus on:

- A specific clinical workflow
- A documentation gap
- A frontline care process

Deliverables often include:

- Workflow maps
- Documentation templates
- Training guides
- Quality improvement proposals

Digital Health Systems (DHS) Track

Who This Track Is For:

The DHS track is designed for learners who:

- Work at the system, program, or population level
- Support EHRs, registries, reporting systems, or interoperability
- Focus on data aggregation, analytics, or digital platforms
- Help connect clinical data to public health, research, or planning

Typical backgrounds include:

- Health Informatics Officers
- Program managers
- Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) staff
- Public health professionals
- Data analysts

Main Focus of the DHS Track

The DHS track focuses on how data moves and is reused across systems.

You will learn to:

- Understand EHR and registry architecture
- Support interoperability and integration
- Improve reporting to national or program systems
- Translate clinical data into usable information for decisions

Key question the DHS track answers:

“How can we connect systems and use health data for planning, reporting, and population health?”

Examples of DHS-Focused Projects

- Improving data flow between an EHR and a cancer registry
- Reducing duplicate data entry across systems
- Designing a basic interoperability or reporting plan
- Improving DHIS2 oncology reporting completeness

Capstone Project Styles usually focus on:

- System-level data flow
- Integration between platforms
- Reporting or analytics improvements

Deliverables often include:

- System architecture diagrams
- Data flow maps
- Interoperability plans
- Reporting improvement proposals

Side-by-Side Comparison of CCD vs DHS Tracks		
Area	CCD Track	DHS Track
Primary focus	Clinical documentation & workflows	Systems, platforms, and data movement
Location of work	Clinics, wards, patient encounters	Programs, registries, health systems
Main data challenge	Data quality at the point of care	Data integration and reuse
Typical tools	Paper charts, EHR screens, templates	EHRs, DHIS2, registries, dashboards
Capstone emphasis	Fixing documentation gaps	Fixing system and reporting gaps
Best suited for	Clinically embedded roles	System-level or digital roles

How to Choose the Right Track

Choose CCD if you:

- Work directly with patient documentation
- Want to improve nursing or clinical workflows
- Are focused on day-to-day care processes

Choose DHS if you:

- Work with health systems or digital platforms
- Support reporting, analytics, or interoperability
- Focus on population-level or program data use

Both tracks are equally rigorous and valuable. The difference is where your informatics impact will be strongest.