**Course Descriptions for:**

**MS Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety (36 Credits) and**

**Advanced Graduate Certificate in Patient Safety (18 Credits)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Program Requirements**

The degree requires completion of a minimum of 36 credits. The curriculum consists of core, foundational, and capstone courses. Students may choose between a research capstone track or an internship/practicum capstone track. Course descriptions are provided below.

**Core Coursework**

**HAU 508: Statistics for Patient Safety Professionals**

Quantitative data analysis techniques utilized in patient safety research are explored. Topics include descriptive, inferential, and correlational statistics. Students learn to use available computer programs to conduct a variety of descriptive, inferential, and correlation statistical tests.

*3 credits*

**HAU 509: Research Design and Methodology for the Patient Safety Professional**

This course provides an in-depth overview of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research designs and methodologies. The student will analyze and evaluate the philosophical foundations, characteristics, strengths, and limitations of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research designs and methodologies.

*3 credits*

**Foundational Coursework**

**HAU 500: Financing Healthcare Organizations**

This course will focus on historic and current issues that impact US healthcare organizations with a primary focus on how health care is delivered, organized and financed. The impact of financing on safety, quality, and the management of risk within healthcare organizations will be emphasized; especially the provider and payment sectors of healthcare. The impact of value based purchasing, pay-for-performance, fee-for-service and other changes in the financing of healthcare will be explored.

*3 credits*

**HAU 501: Patient Safety and the Management of Risk**

This course is designed to provide a strong foundation in the theory of patient safety, quality improvement, and healthcare risk management in the context of the shifting paradigm in healthcare and focuses on the interdisciplinary prevention and management of and response to medical errors. Analysis of risk management as it relates to patient safety standards, quality in healthcare delivery, healthcare management paradigms, accreditation, risk finance, and the development of a just culture*.*

*3 credits*

**HAU 502: Patient Safety and Health Law**

This course will provide an in-depth analysis of the intersection of federal and state laws with an emphasis on how legislation and policy are transforming the US healthcare industry. Students will analyze trends in national and state legislation and evaluate the effects of legislation and policy on clinical patient care, medical malpractice, the creation of patient safety organizations, apology statutes and disclosure of unanticipated outcomes.

*3 credits*

**HAU 503: Error Science, Human Factors, and Patient Safety**

This course will explore best practices from error science and human factor science that can be applied to the healthcare delivery environment in order to improve quality and reduce medical and human error. Students will examine various error science theory and human factors (such as fatigue) that contribute to medical errors and examine how human factors principles are key causes of most adverse events in healthcare. Failure mode effects analysis and root cause analysis principles and tools will be studied as strategies to reduce and respond to medical error. Systems and process analysis will be explored as mechanisms to improve patient safety.

*3 credits*

**HAU 504: Crew Resource Management, Team Performance, and Communication**

This course will explore evidence-based high-performing team strategies, and communication strategies utilized by aviation, nuclear power and other high reliability organizations (HROs) and analyze the methods to apply such skills to the healthcare delivery system. Students will explore how team building and communication techniques are necessary components to create a patient centered, high quality, “patient safety culture” within their respective institutions. The course will also explore how continuous quality improvement techniques are utilized to benchmark and assess patient safety.

*3 credits*

**HAU 505: Quality Improvement and Safety**

This course provides students with a foundation of skills in Total Quality Management (TQM) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Students will learn how to identify problems, collect data, recommend improvements, and use tools and techniques to demonstrate the quality improvement process. The course will explore how technological advances have impacted the quality movement. The course will also explore how continuous quality improvement techniques are utilized to benchmark and assess patient safety.

*3 credits*

**HAU 506: Accreditation, Regulations, and National Patient Safety Goals**

This course will explore the various accreditation requirements that healthcare professionals and healthcare organizations must meet. The course will focus on the Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals by analyzing the purposes for each goal and exploring mechanisms for implementation and measurements of success in meeting the elements of performance.

*3 credits*

**HAU 507: Planning, Evaluation, and Assessment of Patient Safety Initiatives**

This course is designed to provide a strong foundation for program development of patient safety interventions. Utilizing the PRECEDE-PROCEED framework, students will explore techniques and strategies used for designing, implementing, and evaluating patient safety programs. Topics will include the development of programmatic goals and objectives, assessment, selection of methods and strategies, pre-testing of program materials, adoption and implementation plans, data collection, and evaluation indicators.

*3 credits Recommended: HAU 508: Statistics for Patient Safety Professional; HAU 509: Research Design and Methodology for the Patient Safety Professional*

**HAU 510: Advanced Practice for Risk and Safety Officers**

Students will analyze advanced practice methods and tools utilized to implement and measure patient safety initiatives, quality improvement, and identify and mitigate error and risk within the healthcare context. Issues such as occupational and environmental hazard risk reduction, enterprise risk mitigation planning, medical staff credentialing, and the role of the Governing Board will also be explored.

*3 credits Prerequisites: HAU 501:**Patient Safety and the Management of Risk; HAU 503: Error Science, Human Factors and Patient Safety;**and HAU 508: Statistics for Patient Safety Professionals*

**Internship/Practicum Capstone Track Coursework**

**HAU 584: Capstone Project**

The capstone is designed to allow students to select an area of patient safety, quality, or risk management and demonstrate mastery of the curriculum. This can be accomplished by practicum project or internship experience. The capstone will require students to demonstrate scholarly activity, critical thinking, evidence-based practice, leadership, and professionalism; while affirming the importance of ethical behavior, human diversity, and *just culture* within a team approach to patient-centered, high quality and safe delivery of healthcare. The students are expected to put in 45 hours per credit of capstone. Course registration and capstone project is subject to departmental approval.

*3 credits Prerequisite: permission of department*

**Research Capstone Track Coursework**

**HAU 594: Capstone Research-Based**

The research-based capstone is designed to allow students to select an area of patient safety, quality, or risk management and conduct original research. This course encompasses the development of the IRB application and the writing of the graduate thesis. Throughout this course, the student will work with their committee to complete the research project.

*3 credits Prerequisite: permission of department*

**The Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Patient Safety**

**Program Requirements**

The Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Patient Safety is a professional development program intended for health care professionals and non-clinical professionals in healthcare related industries who seek greater in-depth knowledge about and professional advancement in the health care specialties of healthcare quality, healthcare risk management and healthcare patient safety and related fields. The certificate program is comprised of 18 credits, courses listed below.

**HAU 501: Patient Safety and the Management of Risk**

**HAU 502: Patient Safety and Health Law**

**HAU 503: Error Science, Human Factors, and Patient Safety**

**HAU 504: Crew Resource Management, Team Performance, and Communication**

**HAU 505: Quality Improvement and Safety**

**HAU 506: Accreditation, Regulations, and the National Patient Safety Goals**

1. Credits transferable to MS upon application and acceptance to MS program [↑](#footnote-ref-1)