



DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL
& COMPUTER ENGINEERING



Department of Midwifery
University of Western Macedonia

STUDY REGULATIONS
INTERDEPARTMENTAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM
“Digital Health & Health Services Management”
(MSc in Digital Health and Health Management)

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

School of Engineering

University of Western Macedonia

Department of Midwifery

School of Health Sciences

University of Western Macedonia

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General Information

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (coordinating department) of the School of Engineering based in Kozani, in collaboration with the Department of Midwifery of the School of Health Sciences, based in Ptolemaida, at the University of Western Macedonia, offer the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program entitled “Digital Health and Health Services Management” (MSc in Digital Health and Health Management).

The program commences in the academic year 2024–2025 and operates in accordance with the provisions of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette 141/A’), as amended and currently in force.

Program Overview and Objectives

The Interdepartmental MSc Program “**Digital Health and Health Services Management**” is conducted entirely through synchronous distance learning methods, in accordance with the provisions of Law 4957/2022. Its primary objective is to advance study, research, and specialized postgraduate education in the scientific fields of Digital Health and Health Services Management.

The Program aspires to become a center of excellence and reference for the quality of education and research it offers—both within Greece and internationally. It aims to provide graduates with the technological expertise and comprehensive understanding required in the evolving field of Health Services Management. Its curriculum fosters familiarity with the operation of emerging technological systems, the ability to evaluate their safety and effectiveness, and the competence to manage healthcare organizations efficiently, ensuring optimal resource utilization.

Graduates of the Program will:

- Develop a critical understanding of advanced theoretical knowledge, methodologies, and digital technologies which support the healthcare sector, alongside contemporary management principles.
- Acquire specialized technical knowledge and practical skills, enabling them to professionally plan, design, and manage Digital Health systems and healthcare resources, contributing to improved service efficiency.
- Gain transferable and professional competencies that will enhance their career prospects in fields related to Digital Health and Health Services Management.
- Cultivate advanced research abilities, allowing them to conduct independent research and contribute to the development or refinement of Digital Health solutions and innovative management practices—either as researchers or consultants in their areas of expertise.

Specific Objectives

1. Provision of specialized knowledge and skills in Digital Health and Health Services Management, to prepare graduates for positions in both the public and private healthcare sectors.
2. Promotion of research and the advancement of knowledge within the broader field of Health Sciences through dissertations, studies, scientific publications, and participation in European and national projects.
3. Encouragement of collaborations and partnerships with healthcare institutions in Western Macedonia, across Greece, and abroad.

The principal goal of the collaborating departments is to ensure continuous quality assurance and improvement across all dimensions of the Program—educational, research, and administrative—while actively promoting collaboration with related academic programs and research centers in Greece and internationally.

Study Regulations

Duration of Studies

The duration of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program is three (3) semesters. During the first two semesters, lectures are delivered, while the third semester focuses on the preparation and completion of a Master's Thesis. Each semester includes four compulsory courses, with three teaching hours per week per course (a total of 12 contact hours per week).

Program Structure and Curriculum

To be conferred a Master's Degree in Digital Health and Health Services Management, students must successfully complete eight (8) courses during the first and second semesters. The third semester concerns thesis preparation, provided that students have fulfilled both their academic and financial obligations from the previous semesters.

All courses and the Master's Thesis are graded on a 10-point scale, with 10 being the highest grade.

Each postgraduate course carries 7.5 ECTS credits, corresponding to a total of 30 ECTS per semester. The Master's Thesis also carries 30 ECTS credits.

A Master's Degree (MSc) is conferred upon the successful completion of 90 ECTS credits in total.

The structure of the Program is as follows:

1 st SEMESTER			
S/N	Course Title	ECTS credits	Hours/Week
1	Digital Health – Principles of Health Information Systems	7,5	3
2	Fundamental Principles of Management in Health Services	7,5	3
3	Management of Personal Health Data – Bioethics in Healthcare	7,5	3
4	Health Data Processing Algorithms	7,5	3
	Total	30	12
2 nd SEMESTER			
S/N	Course Title	ECTS credits	Hours/Week
1	Elective Course A'	7,5	3
2	Elective Course B'	7,5	3
3	Elective Course C'	7,5	3
4	Elective Course D'	7,5	3
	Total	30	12
3 rd SEMESTER			
1	Master's Thesis	30	-

In the 2nd semester, students are required to select a total of four (4) elective courses as follows:

- ✓ **Option 1: Three (3) courses from Group A and one course (1) from Group B.**
- ✓ **Option 2: Three (3) courses from Group B and one course (1) from Group A.**
- ✓ **Option 3: Two (2) courses from Group A and two (2) courses from Group B.**

Students must choose one of the above combinations to ensure a balanced distribution between the subject areas of the two groups.

S/N	Elective Courses - Group A'
1	Diagnostic, Sensory, and Imaging Technologies
2	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
3	UX in Digital Health: Methodologies and Applications
S/N	Elective Courses - Group B'
1	Evaluation of Economic Efficiency of Health Services and Technologies
2	Fundamental Principles of Data Collection and Evaluation in Epidemiological Studies
3	Bioethics and Health Law in Public Health Policies
4	Administration and Quality Management in Healthcare Services

General Information

- Each semester consists of thirteen (13) full weeks of instruction. All Compulsory courses have a total duration of 39 teaching hours per semester.
- The languages of instruction are Greek and/or English. Courses may be offered in English following a decision by the Study Program Committee. For this to be considered, at least twenty (20) students must submit a formal request.
- Supervision of the theses will be allocated among the teaching staff members of the Program based on each member's total teaching hours.
- The maximum duration for completing the Program is three (3) years. Students may request a study suspension for a maximum period leave of one (1) year for personal or other serious reasons, subject to approval by the Study Program Committee. Each course involves three (3) teaching hours per week for 13 weeks per semester. Every course concludes with a final examination.

Postgraduate Students' Assessment

Students are evaluated for each course by the instructor according to the method established prior to the start of the course (examination/written assignment/ or both). Performance is graded on a 1-10 scale, with 5 as the passing grade. Students who fail a course exam/written assignment submission repeat the examination or resubmit the project in September. If a

student fails to meet the requirements of one or more courses to the extent that they have not successfully completed the Program according to the Postgraduate Program Regulations, they may request a re-examination by a three-member faculty committee. Committee members must have the expertise in the same or a closely related field as the course being evaluated and are appointed by the Department Assembly. The course instructor is excluded from the committee.

Instructors are required to release exam/written assignments results within thirty (30) days of the examination or submission date. Postgraduate students are required to attend all lectures and associated activities for each course. The maximum allowable absence is one third (1/3) of total teaching hours (13 hours per course), regardless of whether absences are justified or not. Exceeding this limit may result in the student being required to repeat the course or may lead to the exclusion from the Postgraduate Program as determined by the Coordinating Committee for Postgraduate Studies.

Students' Rights and Obligations

Postgraduate students admitted to the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program “Digital Health Services Management” are required to:

- ✓ Attend all courses and scheduled academic activities of the approved curriculum without interruption. The maximum number of permitted absences for each student is one third (1/3) of the total teaching hours, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused.
- ✓ Submit all required course assignments on time and within the specified deadlines.
- ✓ Comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Program and uphold the standards of academic ethics.
- ✓ Submit to the Administration Office, prior to the evaluation of their Master’s thesis, a signed declaration stating that the thesis was completed independently and does not contain any plagiarized material.
- ✓ Participate in educational activities, conferences, workshops, symposia, and other academic events organized by the Postgraduate Program.
- ✓ Fulfill their financial obligations by the deadlines set by the Administration Office. Tuition fees amount to a total of €3,900, payable in three equal installments of €1,300 each — upon registration and before the beginning of the second and third semesters, respectively. Tuition fees must be paid on the specified dates announced in advance. In the event of withdrawal from the program, any fees already paid are non-refundable.
- ✓ Register on the Postgraduate Program alumni platform upon completion of their studies.

Postgraduate students are entitled to:

- An Academic identity card (Academic ID).
- A university email account at the University of Western Macedonia (UoWM).
- Access to UoWM library network.
- Access to electronic databases subscribed to by UoWM (Hellenic Academic Libraries Link – HEAL-Link).

The coordinating department must provide appropriate accommodations for postgraduate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

Course and Instructor Evaluation

At the end of each semester, students can evaluate the teaching process electronically within a specified period, by completing online questionnaires available through the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of the University: <https://qau.uowm.gr>.

Tuition Fee Exceptions and Scholarships

Enrolled students may be exempted from tuition fees provided they meet the criteria defined in Article 86 of Law 4957/2022. In addition, the Interdepartmental Program by decision of the Study Program Committee, may award merit-based scholarships based on academic performance to students who have successfully completed the first year of study. Depending on the number of students admitted in each academic cycle up to two (2) scholarships may be awarded when the total number of students is 40 or fewer, and up to three (3) scholarships when the number exceeds 40.

Up to 30% of students may be exempted from tuition fees if their individual and household equivalent disposable income do not exceed, respectively, 100% and 70% of the national median equivalent disposable income, according to the most recent data published by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT).

Educational Process

The educational process is conducted entirely through synchronous and asynchronous distance learning methods, in accordance with Article 88 of Law 4957/2022 and the Joint Ministerial Decision (Government Gazette 1079/B'/28.02.2023, Article 5, Paragraph 3).

Specifically, the integrated system of both synchronous and asynchronous distance learning will be utilized, as described in detail in Chapter 2: Organization of the Educational Process through Distance Learning Methods of the Regulation of Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies of the University of Western Macedonia.

The University of Western Macedonia employs an integrated distance learning system comprising the following components:

a) Moodle

The online learning process takes place via the Moodle platform (Modular Object-Oriented Developmental Learning Environment), which provides a comprehensive environment for asynchronous e-learning.

b) Eclass της GuNET

The Open eClass platform, developed by the Greek Universities Network (GUnet), is a complete Learning Management System supporting asynchronous education. It is open-source software designed to enhance teaching and learning, accessible freely through any web browser without requiring advanced technical knowledge.

c) Zoom

UoWM holds an institutional Zoom subscription, offering 250 virtual classrooms and one webinar room with a capacity of 1,000 participants. Zoom enables real-time communication through audio and video, allowing instructors and students to interact from different locations using standard equipment (computers, cameras, microphones, speakers, headsets, high-speed internet connection, and videoconferencing software).

d) UniverSIS Student Information System

The UniverSIS platform serves three main user groups — students, academic staff, and administrative staff — at both departmental and institutional levels.

Students are required to have access to a computer (desktop or laptop), camera (built-in or external), speakers, and a reliable internet connection. They must attend all online classes, submit assignments on time, comply with academic regulations, and maintain ethical standards.

Student assessment will be carried out through written or oral examinations conducted via distance-learning methods, as well as through alternative forms of evaluation such as assignments or practical tests, depending on the nature of each course and the instructor's chosen assessment method.

Supplementary Educational and Research Activities

Postgraduate students may assist academic staff in various activities, such as supervising undergraduate examinations or helping organize conferences.

In addition to regular coursework, parallel educational and research activities (seminars, lectures, workshops, etc.) may take place during the program. Participants will receive certificates of attendance for these activities.

Award of Degrees

The Master's Degree Award Ceremony is held in the presence of the Rector (or their representative) and the Director of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program.

Internship/Work Placement/Practical Training

Within the framework of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program “*Digital Health and Health Services Management*”, no internship/work placement or practical training is required.

Student Mobility

There is no specific mobility regulation within the “*Digital Health and Health Services Management*”. However, postgraduate students may participate in institutional mobility programs after consultation with the Program Coordinator and the relevant services of the University of Western Macedonia (UoWM).

Regulations for the Preparation of a Master's Thesis

During the third semester, students undertake a Master's Thesis, which is a core and compulsory component of the program. Successful completion under the supervision of an Academic Staff member is a prerequisite for the award of the Master's Degree in Digital Health and Health Services Management.

At the beginning of the third semester, students apply to the Department Assembly for approval of a proposed thesis topic, after consultation with a proposed supervisor. The application must be accompanied by a summary of the proposed research assignment. The supervisor must be a member of the teaching staff assigned partially or fully to teach a course in the program.

The supervisor is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the thesis, ensuring that the research objectives and requirements are met. The supervisor may be an Academic Staff Member (DEP) of UoWM, the Democritus University of Thrace, or another higher education institution in Greece or abroad. Members of Special Teaching Staff (EDIP), Laboratory Teaching Staff (EEP), or Special Technical Staff (ETEP) holding a doctoral degree may also act as supervisors.

Members of the Three-Member Examination Committee must possess expertise in the scientific field of the postgraduate program and may belong to either the collaborating department or other university departments, provided they have the appropriate specialization.

Theses may be written in a foreign language, upon agreement with the supervisor.

A change of thesis topic is permitted only following a justified request by the student and approval by the Study Program Committee. Such a change does not constitute grounds for extending the submission deadline. In exceptional circumstances, and for justified reasons, replacement of the supervisor or a member of the Examination Committee may be approved by the Department Assembly.

Upon thesis completion and approval by the supervisor, the final evaluation is scheduled within a specified timeframe and includes an oral defense before a three-member Examination Committee.

Students are solely responsible for the originality and authorship of their thesis. Plagiarism—defined as the partial or complete copying or use of another person's work, published or not, without proper citation—is a serious academic offense. Proven cases of plagiarism may lead, upon recommendation of the supervisor, to permanent expulsion from the postgraduate program.

The maximum period for a Master's Thesis submission is 18 months from the approval date. In exceptional cases, and upon justified request, the period may be extended for up to two additional semesters with approval from the Study Program Committee.

The final grade of the Master's Degree is calculated on a 10-point scale as the weighted average of the grades obtained in all individual courses and the Master's Thesis, according to their respective weighting factors.

The grading scale is as follows:

- *Excellent*: 8.5–10
- *Very Good*: 6.5–8.49
- *Good*: 5–6.49

Regulations for Master's Thesis undertaking

Students of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program "Digital Health and Health Services Management" undertake the preparation of a Master's Thesis during the third (final) semester of their studies. Thesis' successful completion, under the supervision of Academic Staff members, is an essential academic requirement for the award of a Master's Degree in Digital Health and Health Services Management.

Thesis development is carried out in close collaboration with the supervisor. Students must report regularly on their progress and any challenges encountered. A co-supervisor may also be appointed at the time of the thesis proposal.

Eligibility for Thesis Undertaking

To qualify for a Master's Degree, *MSc in Digital Health and Health Services Management*, students must successfully complete all courses and a Master's thesis. Courses carry 7.5 ECTS each, totaling 30 ECTS per semester, while the thesis carries 30 ECTS, for a total of 90 ECTS.

At the beginning of the third semester, after passing all courses, students submit a Thesis Proposal Application to the Secretariat, including the proposed title and supervisor. The Program Committee then forms a Three-Member Examination Committee, which includes the supervisor.

The supervisor, an Academic Staff member assigned partially or fully to teach in the program, supervises and monitors the thesis to ensure that research objectives and standards are met.

Thesis Assignment Procedure

Students must submit to the Secretariat a Thesis Assignment Form indicating the title and supervisor's name, signed by the supervisor.

If a student wishes to change topic or supervisor, they must first notify the previous supervisor and then submit a new application during the official submission period announced by the Secretariat.

At least one academic semester must elapse between two consecutive thesis declarations by the same student.

Completed theses are submitted to the Secretariat on announced dates for presentation and examination.

Thesis Preparation Period

The minimum duration for thesis preparation is one academic semester. The maximum duration is 18 months from the date of assignment.

If there is no progress after at least one year, the supervisor may request that the assignment be annulled. In special cases, upon request and approval, the duration may be extended by one semester, but in no case shall it exceed the overall maximum study period of three (3) years.

Thesis Topic

The thesis must be an original, integrative piece of work reflecting the students' acquired knowledge and experience in one or more subject areas of the program.

It may take one of the following forms:

- A research study;
- The solution of an applied, original problem;
- A systematic and critical literature review.

Regardless of type, theses must demonstrate originality, which may involve:

- Filling a gap in the literature (e.g., developing new theory or data)
- Effectively modifying an existing theoretical framework
- Solving a novel problem
- Improving or expanding existing methodologies
- Drawing new conclusions.

Thesis Format and Structure

Theses must demonstrate scientific rigor, clarity, logical structure, accuracy, originality, and creativity. They should be well-organized, cohesive, coherent, and persuasive academic documents that contribute meaningfully to scholarly discourse. The text must be free of grammatical and typographical errors and should be of publishable quality.

Formatting requirements:

1. Thesis language may be Greek or English.
2. References must follow one of the following styles: APA, Vancouver, Harvard, or IEEE.
3. All references cited must appear in the Bibliography section.
4. The spine may optionally include the title, author's name, and year.
5. Figures, diagrams, or tables not produced by the author must cite their sources.

Required structure:

- 1) The cover page of the thesis does not need to follow a specific design template. However, it must include the following information:

- University name
- Postgraduate Program title
- The phrase “**Master’s Thesis**”
- Thesis title (in Greek)
- Student’s full name
- Month and year of printing/presentation
- City
- Supervisor’s name
- A cover page in English is not permitted, unless the entire thesis is written in English. In such cases, the student may add a second page following the Greek cover, containing the corresponding information in English.
- The cover page should maintain an academic and formal appearance, avoiding unnecessary or decorative elements (e.g., comics, personal photos). Additionally, all text on the cover page must not be written entirely in capital letters.

2. Title page (repeating cover information).
3. Abstract in Greek with keywords (max. 1 page).
4. Abstract in English with keywords (max. 1 page).
5. Copyright page.

6. Acknowledgements (Optional).
7. Table of Contents.
8. List of abbreviations.
9. Thematic chapters.
10. Appendices.
11. References/Bibliography.

Theses are checked for plagiarism using *Turnitin*. The supervisor must generate and print the Text-only Report's first page, showing the similarity percentage, which must comply with the plagiarism policy set by the Program Committee. This page must be submitted along with the examination application.

Thesis Defense

After the supervisor's and committee's approval, a public oral defense is scheduled. The supervisor informs the Secretariat by submitting the title and abstract. The Secretariat prepares and circulates the defense schedule electronically and publishes it on the program's website. The defense is conducted online, lasting 15–20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

A brief presentation guide is provided in the Appendix.

Thesis Examination and Grading

Theses are evaluated by a three-member committee: the supervisor and two additional examiners with relevant expertise. Examiners may include co-supervisors, researchers, or external academics, all holding a PhD.

Evaluation criteria (in order of importance):

1. Originality and contribution to the field
2. Achievement of objectives
3. Quality of research and results
4. Quantity of work
5. Clarity and quality of writing
6. Oral presentation performance
7. Knowledge of the subject demonstrated during defense
8. Presentation and formatting

Grading scale (0–10):

- Excellent: 8.5 – 10
- Very Good: 6.5 – 8.49
- Good: 5 – 6.49

Interpretation and Implementation of Thesis Regulations

Any issues relating to the interpretation or implementation of these thesis regulations, or matters not covered herein, are addressed by the Program Committee of the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Program “*Digital Health and Health Services Management*”.

Students may submit written inquiries to the Secretariat and will receive a response following the next Program Committee meeting.