Regulatory Compliance

Choose from program tracks in healthcare compliance, clinical research or quality and regulatory science.
Expand your professional opportunities in this critical field.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Regulatory compliance is increasingly visible in healthcare, life science, and clinical research arenas. As a result, career opportunities in regulatory compliance are multiplying for those with the kind of training students receive in the Master of Science in Regulatory Compliance (MSRC) program.

An interdisciplinary professional program, Northwestern University’s part-time MSRC program addresses core areas of compliance, including risk management, quality and regulatory science, practices and enforcement, leadership, and communication skills. The MSRC curriculum focuses on these core competencies while also stressing practical applications within the program’s three tracks: healthcare compliance*, clinical research and quality and regulatory science.

MSRC graduates are prepared to assume leadership positions in healthcare compliance, clinical compliance, and in quality and regulatory industries, including pharmaceutical, life sciences, food, and medical device industries. Even PhDs can significantly enhance their skill sets and find new professional opportunities in this increasingly important and sensitive field.

The program offers a thorough grounding in the interdisciplinary core competencies of regulatory compliance, including risk management, quality and regulatory science, leadership and communication skills. MSRC places a strong emphasis on practical application: courses are taught by industry experts — leading minds with extensive experience in navigating regulatory compliance challenges. MSRC’s partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science Institute supplies the curriculum with the latest insights on healthcare, translational research and regulation.

* MSRC is a CCB (Compliance Certification Board) accredited program for students in the healthcare compliance specialization. HC specialization students who complete the degree are exempt from the work-experience eligibility requirement and can sit for all seven of the healthcare compliance and general industry compliance and ethics exams.
Curriculum

The Master’s in Regulatory Compliance requires the completion of 11 courses. This covers six core courses, four courses corresponding to a declared program track, and one cross-elective track course. Program tracks allow students to tailor their studies to specific career goals. Current students should refer to curriculum requirements in place at time of entry into the program.

**CORE COURSES**

- MSRC 401 Quality Systems
- MSRC 405 Research & Writing
- MSRC 409 Biostatistics
- MSRC 435 Risk and Decision Management
- LEADERS 481 Leadership
- MSRC 590 Thesis Research or 498 Capstone Course

**TRACK COURSES**

4 COURSES

Students choose, at time of admission, one of the following tracks in healthcare compliance, clinical research or quality systems, designed to help students develop their industry expertise effectively.

**Clinical Research Track**

Students specializing in clinical research are given a solid framework from which to understand clinical research. A graduate’s understanding of clinical study design, drug development and regulatory requirements allows them to manage many facets of the clinical research endeavor, whether developing and implementing clinical research protocols or overseeing GCP and compliance at an individual or multi-site level.

**Healthcare Compliance Track**

Gain a strong grounding in healthcare laws and regulations and learn the basics of healthcare billing and payment and corporate compliance. Graduates of the Healthcare Compliance specialization are able to employ their compliance knowledge at both a systems and discrete level. For example, they will be able to assess and manage compliance programs; develop compliance dashboards and conduct and respond to audits; and screen and evaluate vendors.

**Quality Systems Track**

Rapid technological advances and increased globalization have spurred government and industry regulations. The changing environment has transformed job and performance expectations for chemists, scientists, technicians and managers. Students in the quality systems specialization explore concepts and problems in quality assurance and regulatory affairs that span life science industries, thus encouraging a cross-pollination of best practices and systems.

**CROSS-TRACK COURSE**

1 COURSE

Students take one elective of their choice in a specialization other than their own. An appropriate course can be also be selected from the university’s other programs.

Admission

For detailed admission and application information visit sps.northwestern.edu/msrc. For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email msrc@northwestern.edu.

**Application Deadlines** (accepted every quarter)

- **Fall**: July 15
- **Winter**: October 15
- **Spring**: January 15
- **Summer**: April 15

The MSRC program was presented at the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Consortium Steering Committee in December, 2013. The MSRC degree program abstract, Training the Clinical and Translational Workforce of Tomorrow, was selected from abstracts submitted by all sixty CTSAs nationally as one of eleven to be orally presented at the 2013 national meeting held in Washington, DC. The MSRC program successfully meeting one of the primary goals of the CTSA, to increase the skills of the clinical and translational research workforce and provide them with career pathways to retain them in industry and academia.
About

The MS in Regulatory Compliance is offered by Northwestern University School of Professional Studies in partnership with the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Northwestern University School of Professional Studies (SPS) students learn in a supportive, collaborative environment in evening and online courses that enable them to balance their personal and professional lives with the pursuit of learning. Classes are taught by some of the university’s most respected and talented educators — scholars and professionals who value the diversity, energy, and creativity of their students.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, founded in 1859, attracts talented individuals to its faculty, staff, and student body through its cutting-edge research initiatives, superb clinical affiliates, global outlook, and innovative curriculum.

Feinberg has built a national reputation for excellence through a strong history of collaborative, interdisciplinary medical education and research, and along with Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern Medical Group is part of the premier academic medical center known as Northwestern Medicine.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

The NUCATS Institute is an integral link in Northwestern University’s clinical and translational research enterprise, accelerating translational innovation by providing research teams with consultative resources and expertise. The Institute is a member of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium, an initiative led by the National Institutes of Health.

Mentorship & Careers

MENTORING PROGRAM

MSRC provides students with access to industry and healthcare system mentors who support and guide their professional development. Mentors can help students by guiding their professional growth — including enhancement of professional network connections — clarifying career goals and addressing career challenges. Students have the opportunity to work with mentors with roles that include medical writer, clinical research director, clinical research education director, clinical research compliance director, VP of development and regulatory affairs, documentation and reimbursement specialist.

CAREERS

MSRC graduates work in the entire spectrum of research — from clinical trials to management and compliance. They also work across the employer spectrum — from research clinics and academic medical centers to clinical research organizations, other research service providers to pharmaceutical companies. Their education skills often qualify them for careers in overlapping research and regulatory fields.

ACCREDITATION

MSRC is a CCB (Compliance Certification Board) accredited program for students in the healthcare compliance specialization. HC specialization students who complete the degree are exempt from the work-experience eligibility requirement and can sit for all seven of the healthcare compliance and general industry compliance and ethics exams. Quality Systems specialization students will have the knowledge they need to sit for the ASQ Six Sigma Green Belt certification exam after completing the degree. ASQ certification increases the potential for a higher salary and demonstrates proficiency in the quality and regulatory science fields.
There are so many benefits and resources at your fingertips at Northwestern. You have access to wonderful libraries and online journals and smart individuals. I think that’s one of the biggest benefits. I had so many accessible resources.”

Danielle Keir, Senior Regulatory Coordinator in the Cancer Center at Northwestern University

“ The MSRC program has made it possible for me to increase my relevance to my company’s healthcare and healthcare compliance and reimbursement businesses. My knowledge has really grown.”

John Barker, VP of Strategy and Competitive Intelligence at Wolters Kluwer
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