Hensel’s health administration career began when he completed his master’s in health administration at MU in 1987. Following many years of service as an executive at several hospital-based health systems, he returned to Mizzou to earn a PhD focused on health communication from the Missouri School of Journalism. He then conducted research in consumer health informatics as a National Library of Medicine fellow.

Additionally, Hensel served as a health and aging policy fellow in the office of Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia during development of the Affordable Care Act. In that role, he helped develop end-of-life care legislation within the ACA.

In 2014, Hensel returned again to MU, where he teaches courses on the U.S. health system, health administration and health policy. His consulting and research interests include post-acute, long-term and end-of-life care, including the application of health informatics and media in these areas of health care.

Hensel has achieved other awards and honors including being named a Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellow as well as Health Management and Informatics Professor of the Year.

Dr. Brian Hensel is an assistant teaching professor of health management and informatics in the School of Medicine.