



# HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

### Program Description:

The Health Information Management bachelor degree program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)\*. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA)\*\* certification examination for the designation of Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA).

The major in health information management is designed to prepare the graduate HIM professional with skills and competencies in health data management, data analytics and informatics, information governance, privacy and security, compliance, clinical documentation improvement, revenue cycle management, medical coding, health information technology management, and administrative and clinical workflow. Students will focus on operations management essential to ensuring an accurate and complete medical record and cost-effective information processing.

A student's application to the baccalaureate degree program will be considered following:

- Admission to WKU;
- Earning grade of C or higher in introductory course, HIM 100: Health Data Content and Structure (or equivalent course or departmental exam) OR following successful completion of an associate degree in Health Information Management or Health Information Technology;
- Submitting a criminal background check; and
- Earning an overall GPA of 2.0.

Students are required to have professional liability insurance coverage prior to accessing health information and/or professional practice experience. Prior to participating in any professional practice experience (PPE) students are also required to provide a recent criminal background check, current immunization records and results of a current drug screen. At selected health care institutions, there may be additional certifications, training seminars, or other requirements that a student must meet in order to be eligible for training at the chosen facility. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all institutional requirements are met prior to participation in the PPE. Students may be responsible in part or in full for any costs incurred to meet such requirements. Policies, standards and requirements should be obtained directly from the program office or at <http://www.wku.edu/healthinformationmanagement>.

For more information on job opportunities in the HIM profession go to <http://hicareers.com/CareerMap/>.

## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

### WKU Colonnade Program (39 hours)<sup>1</sup>

Note: BIO 131-Anatomy and Physiology must be completed as a part of the program and counts as part of the Colonnade Program, as well. Language Proficiency of novice-high must be earned before completing 60 credit hours.

### Required Program Courses

HIM 100-Health Data Content & Structure (4)	
HIM 225-Legal Issues in HIM (2)	
HIM 230-Computer Systems & Applications in HIM (3)	
HIM 252-Healthcare Payment Systems (3)	
HIM 290-Medical Terminology (2)	
HIM 291-Advanced Medical Terminology (2)	
HIM 292-Pharmacology & Lab Diagnostics (2)	
HIM 330-Electronic Health Records (3)	
HIM 350-Health Informatics Research (3) <sup>2</sup>	
HIM 353-Management of Clinical Classification Systems (3)	
HIM 421-Health Information Leadership & Mgmt (3)	
	HIM 422-Clinical Quality Assessment & Performance Improvement (3)
	HIM 430-Health Data Management & Analytics (3)
	HIM 450-Application & Analysis of HIM Theory (3)
	HIM 495-Capstone Professional Practice Experience (3-6)
	PH 383-Biostatistics in Health Sciences OR MATH 183 Introductory Statistics OR SOCL 300 Social Statistics (3)
	BDAN 305-Principles of MIS with Spreadsheets (3)
	BDAN 250- Introduction to Analytics (3)
	BIOL 131- Human Anatomy & Physiology (4)

### Choose from the following required courses (6 credit hours)

BDAN 310- Business Data Analytics (3)  
BDAN 320- Web Analytics (3)  
BDAN 330- Structured Data Analysis (3)  
BDAN 350- Data Management (3)  
BDAN 410- Decision Support Systems Analysis and Design (3)  
BDAN 420- Data Mining (3)  
BDAN 430- Data Visualization and Digital Dashboards (3)  
BDAN 440- Special Topics- Analytics & Information Systems (3)  
DATA 301- Big Data with its Applications (3)  
CIS 320- Personal Information Technologies (3)  
CIS 321- Emerging Information Technologies (3)

### PROGRAM TOTAL HOURS: 61-64 hours

**TOTAL 96-99 + (21-24 general electives) = 120 total hours** (All B.S. graduating students must have 120 credit hours to graduate; NOTE: BIOL 131 counts in both Colonnade and Program)

<sup>1</sup>Note requirements listed in WKU Colonnade Program; refer to <http://www.wku.edu/colonnade/> for more information

<sup>2</sup>PH 383 or MATH 183 or SOCL 300 must be taken prior to HIM 350.

**Job Opportunities:** Job opportunities exist in multiple settings throughout the healthcare industry. These organizations include hospitals, multispecialty clinics and physician practices, long-term care, mental health, and other ambulatory care settings. The profession has seen significant expansion in nonpatient care settings, with careers in managed care and insurance companies, software vendors, consulting services, government agencies, education, and pharmaceutical companies.

**Job Growth and Income:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of medical and health services managers is expected to grow 17 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The healthcare industry will continue to expand and diversify, requiring managers to help ensure smooth business operations. In addition, the federally mandated use of the electronic patient record will require that graduates be knowledgeable in the management of computerized health information.

According to the BLS, the median annual wage for medical and health services managers was \$101,340 in 2021. Earnings vary by type and size of the facility and level of responsibility. Employment in the field is projected to grow 28% from 2021 to 2031. Other occupations appropriate to this major include health information technologists and medical registrars with a median pay of \$55,460 per year (2021). Medical records specialists have a median pay of \$46,660 per year (2021).

**Accreditation:** The HIM baccalaureate degree program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).\* Graduates are eligible to take the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) examination.

**Program Admission:**

1. The applicant must be officially accepted to Western Kentucky University and complete HIM 100 before his/her program application. Admission to the college or university does not guarantee admission to the program. Applicants are considered on a competitive basis. There are no restrictions regarding age, sex, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or marital status.
2. Submit an application to the Program of Health Information Management by December 1 for admission to the spring semester and by May 1 for admission for the fall semester; late admission may be considered.
3. In order to be admitted, the applicant must complete HIM 100 (or equivalent) with a grade of C or higher, have a clear criminal background check with no felonies and no misdemeanor assaults, and have an overall GPA of 2.0.
4. HIT/HIM courses from a CAHIIM-accredited program will be substituted as equivalency transfer credit for lower division courses.
5. Many HIT/HIM courses from non-CAHIIM accredited programs are automatically accepted into WKU. Otherwise, courses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for transfer equivalency. Students may also receive WKU credit for successfully passing (70%) the corresponding WKU course departmental exam.
6. All HIM courses must be completed with a "C" or higher.

Please contact the department office at 270-745-3548 for further information or visit <http://wku.edu/healthinformationmanagement>.

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