



# HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

**Program Description:** Health information management (HIM) is a diverse yet evolving field that incorporates medicine, management, finance, information technology, and law into one dynamic career path. The HIM baccalaureate degree program prepares the graduate HIM professional with the skills and competencies in health data management, information policy, administering computer information systems and administrative and clinical work flow. Students will focus on the management of information, people and operational units, participation in administrative committees, preparation of budgets and administration of computerized health information systems.

### PROGRAM CURRICULUM

#### Required Associate Degree in HIM (43 hours)<sup>1</sup>

#### WKU Colonnade Program (39 hours)<sup>2</sup>

Note: Language Proficiency of novice-high must be earned before completing 60 credit hours.

#### Required Courses in the Major (46 hours)

CIT 310-Systems Architecture I (3)<sup>3</sup>  
CIT 330-Systems Development I (3)  
CIT 332-Systems Development II (3)  
CIT 350-Database Administration I (3)  
CIT 492-Technology Management I (3)  
HCA 340-Healthcare Organization & Management (3)  
HCA 342-Human Resources Management For Healthcare Managers (3)<sup>7</sup>  
HCA 401 OR HCA 445-Fundamentals of Health Care Financial Management OR Health Care Finance (3)<sup>6</sup>

HIM 230-Computer Systems & Applications in HIM (3)<sup>8</sup>  
HIM 252-Healthcare Payment Systems (3)<sup>8</sup>  
HIM 350-Health Informatics Research (3)<sup>4</sup>  
HIM 351-ICD-10 Coding (1)<sup>5</sup>  
HIM 422-Clinical Quality Assessment & Performance Improvement (3)  
HIM 450-Application & Analysis of HIM Theory (3)  
HIM 495-Capstone Professional Practice Experience (3)  
PH 383-Biostatistics in Health Sciences (3)

#### Choose from the following required courses (8 hours)<sup>9</sup>

HIM 100-Health Data Content & Structure (4)  
HIM 221-Health Information and Quality Management (4)  
HIM 250-ICD Coding (4)  
HIM 251-HCPCS/CPT Coding (4)

**TOTAL 122-136** (Number of hours will depend upon previously completed coursework)

<sup>1</sup>Completion of an associate degree in HIM from a CAHIIM\* accredited program required prior to admission; a minimum of 43 credit hours is required. If not already obtained, please refer to <http://www.wku.edu/healthinformationmanagement/> for our Associate Degree Program. All courses listed above may be completed on-line; other sections may be offered on-campus.

<sup>2</sup>Note requirements listed in WKU Colonnade Program; refer to <http://www.wku.edu/colonnade/> for more information

<sup>3</sup>CIT 300 waived as a prerequisite for CIT courses.

<sup>4</sup>Any required competency course and appropriate lab, PH 383 must be taken prior to HIM 350.

<sup>5</sup>All students completing the required CAHIIM accredited HIM associate degree prior to Fall 2010 must take this course. Requirement may be waived upon submission of documentation showing evidence of current Clinical Coding Specialist (CCS) certification through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)\*\* OR completion of the AHIMA Academy for ICD-10.

<sup>6</sup>Students may take either HCA 401(prerequisite HCA 340) or HCA 445 (prerequisites HCA 340, 344, 345 or 346, 440, ACCT 200, 201 and FIN 330).

<sup>7</sup>Prerequisite HCA 340

<sup>8</sup>HIM 230 and HIM 252 are considered competency courses; see requirement #2 under "Program Admission" below.

<sup>9</sup>Courses from required associate degree will be evaluated for equivalency transfer credit.

**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 23 percent from 2012 to 2022, 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 \$88,580 in May 2012. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$53,940, and the top 10 percent earned more than \$150,560. Earnings vary by type and size of the facility and level of responsibility.

**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 before his/her program application can be considered. Admission to the college or university does not guarantee admission to the program. Acceptance into the baccalaureate degree HIM program is based on a selective admission process and is based on space available. Applicants are considered on a competitive basis. There are no restrictions regarding age, sex, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or marital status.
2. Students may be required to provide evidence of mastery of content for competency courses HIM 230-Computer Applications in HIM and/or HIM 252-Healthcare Payment Systems; specialty certifications and/or training may be considered as meeting this requirement. If the required HIM associate degree did not include course content equivalent to that taught in these competency courses, then a passing score on respective departmental exams will be required prior to program admission. Students may enroll as "seeking program admission" during this time.
3. In addition, students must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 in previous college work.
4. 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.

Please contact the department office at 270-745-3548 for further information.

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Chicago, IL 60601-5800

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