



HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Program Description: Are you interested in a career in a growing profession that combines patient care, computer technology and management? If so, a career in Health Information Management (HIM) may be for you. The HIM associate degree program prepares the graduate for entry-level employment as a health information technician. Health information technicians are experts in health data collection, analysis, monitoring, maintenance, and reporting activities in accordance with established data quality principles, legal and regulatory standards, and professional best practice guidelines. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Registration Examination for the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) administered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).**

Required Curriculum: (Effective Fall 2014)

First Semester

HIM 100-Hlth Data Cont & Struct*	4
CIS 141- Basic Computer Literacy or CSCI 145C-Intro to Computing	3
MA 109 or MA 116-Gen Math Coll Alg~	3
ENG 100-Intro to Writing~	3
HIM 290-Medical Terminology~	2
	15

Second Semester

BIO 131-Human Anat & Phys*~	4
HIM 291-Adv Medical Term~	2
HIM 292-Pharm & Lab Diag~	2
Arts and Humanities (AH) Colonnade Elective~	3
Social and Behavioral (SB) Colonnade Elective~	3
	14

Third Semester

Restricted Elective~ (BIO 275, CS 157, INS 272 OR CIS 243)	3
HIM 220-Statistical Appl in HIM	2
HIM 221-Hlth Info & Quality Mgmt*	4
HIM 250-ICD Coding*	4
	13

Fourth Semester

HIM 225-Legal Issues in HIM~	2
HIM 230-Comp Sys & App in HIM*	3
HIM 251-HCPCS/CPT Coding*	4
HIM 252-Hlthcare Pay Syst~	3
Social and Behavioral (SB) Colonnade Elective~	3
	15

Final Term

HIM 295-Seminar & PPE	5
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TOTAL HOURS

62

~Web-based sections offered

*Lab component included/required

Students are required to show current immunizations for:

- Proof of mumps, measles, and rubella immunity by positive antibody titers or two doses of the MMR vaccine
- Varicella immunity, by positive history of chickenpox or proof of varicella immunization
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis written in the last ten years
- Proof of hepatitis B immunization or declination of vaccine
- Tuberculin skin test and/or chest x-ray within the past 12 months and within 3 months of PPE

All Students are required to purchase:

- Professional liability insurance at an approximate cost of \$35.00 per year
- AHIMA membership at an approximate cost of \$35.00 per year
- Criminal Background Check for approximately \$49.50
 - Students convicted of a felony or assault misdemeanor will not be admitted to the program.
- 7-Panel Minimum Drug Screening for approximately \$55.00

Job Opportunities: Based on skills, education and interests, positions that may be available include: Cancer/other disease Registrar; Clinical Coder; Compliance Auditor; Vocabulary Specialist; Clinical Data Collection and Reporting Specialist; Data Integrity Specialist; Document Imaging Coordinator; Documentation Specialist; Information Access/Disclosure Specialist; Quality Improvement Specialist; Reimbursement Specialist/Financial Services liaison; and Instructor/Trainer. HIM professionals work in a multitude of settings throughout the healthcare industry including hospitals, physician offices and clinics, long-term care facilities, insurance companies, government agencies and home care providers.

Job Growth and Income: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 15 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2024. This strong demand is due to the rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by health insurance companies, regulators, courts and consumers. In addition, as the population continues to age, the occurrence of health-related problems will increase. Also, more technicians will be needed to complete the new responsibilities associated with electronic data management.

On top of strong job prospects, competitive salaries also await HIM graduates. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage of medical records and health information technicians was \$37,110 in 2015. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$24,190, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$61,400.

Accreditation: The HIM program is currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

CAHIIM
233 North Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-5800
(312) 233-1100
www.cahiim.org

Program Admission: 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 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. Please contact the program office at 270-745-3548 for further information.

**AHIMA
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