

# Health Information Technology

## Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology

Today, society depends on information. Advances in technology make the ever-increasing flow of information more available, more comprehensible and more useful. Advances in medical science, legislative reforms, computerization and the need to manage health care delivery systems and health care costs, have created a growing demand for information professionals with the knowledge and skills to process, analyze and distribute health care information.

## Career Opportunities

A career as a health information professional offers a unique opportunity to combine an interest in medicine with the multifaceted information management challenges of tomorrow.

Medical and health records are used in every aspect of health care planning and delivery. Their primary purpose is to serve as a basis for planning patient care. Such documentation assists in ensuring continuity of care and protects the financial and legal interests of the patient, the health care facility and the responsible practitioner who is caring for the patient. Data from medical records helps health care facilities evaluate the types of services they should offer and project future patient volume and treatment needs.

Nationally, about 50 percent of credentialed registered health information management technicians work in the hospital setting, where they are responsible as coders, billing professionals, compliance coordinators, managers, supervisors and reimbursement coordinators. As the importance of health information expands, particularly in the reimbursement function of all types of health care facilities, positions are opening up in ambulatory care settings such as physician offices, clinics and outpatient surgery centers. Long term care facilities, hospice and home health care facilities, as well as prison settings and state and federal health agencies present yet other challenging settings for employment.

Graduates have traditionally experienced high job placement and many students obtain positions on a part-time basis during their second year of study. Graduates are eligible to write the national examination to become a Registered Health Information Management Technician (RHIT) by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

## Curriculum

The curriculum for accredited health information technician programs includes courses in anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, health record management, health information systems, management information systems, medicolegal aspects, quality assessment, statistics, research methods, and coding and reimbursement methods. Students complete supervised professional practice experiences in the health information management departments of approved health care facilities. All health information technology courses have laboratory assignment requirements which accompany the lecture presentations to enhance and stimulate the learning process. Online distance education is available for much of the required health information technology coursework.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available through the American Health Information Management Association. Low interest loans and scholarships are also available from the Foundation for Record Education.

## Program Requirements

Students pursuing the associate of applied science degree in health information technology must complete a minimum of 62 hours in the following areas with a GPA of 2.5 or better in all related coursework to be eligible for clinical education.

## Communications (6 hours minimum)

Varieties of Writing (3)  
Speech Communication (3)

## Basic Courses (18 hours minimum)

Introduction to Statistics (3) or Using Statistics (3)  
Management Information Systems (3)  
Management/Supervision (3)  
Research in the Electronic Library (1)  
Basic Human Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health (5)

## General Studies (7-10 hours minimum)

General Psychology (4)  
Electives (3-6)

## Technical Courses (35 hours)

Introduction to Health Information Technology (3)  
Medical Terminology (2)  
Survey of Pharmacology (1)  
Medicolegal Aspects of Health Information (3)  
Coding & Classification Systems: ICD-9-CM (3)  
Information Systems for HIT (3)  
Laboratory Simulation (2)  
Coding & Classification Systems: HCPCS & CPT (2)  
Pathophysiology (4)  
Reimbursement Methodologies (2)  
Organization & Supervision of Health Information (1)  
Health Statistics and Data Literacy (3)  
Advanced Coding (2)  
Clinical Quality Assessment & Performance Improvement (1)  
Directed Practice (3)  
Comparative Health Records (1)

## For Further Information

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### **Your University Opportunity**

BGSU Firelands, located in Huron, Ohio, is a regional campus and one of the seven undergraduate colleges of Bowling Green State University. We offer many of the advantages and resources of a major university, but in a smaller, more personal environment.

Generally, students are able to complete at least two years of course-work toward most of the 200-degree programs at BGSU before transferring to the main campus, or to another college or university.

BGSU Firelands offers students a wireless environment campus wide. Kiosks and public-access computers located in most campus buildings provide easy Internet access. In addition, there are several on-campus computer labs with a variety of computers and software programs.

The library, containing more than 30,000 volumes, is computer-linked to the more than 4 million items available through BGSU's libraries to provide excellent research opportunities.

Academic advisors work individually with students to plan their degree programs and small class sizes allow students to have close, personal contact with their professors. Free tutoring is readily available through the Teaching and Learning Center. Scholarships, grants and loans are available to assist students with tuition.

NOTE: Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Health Information Technology, please check the undergraduate catalog online at: [www.bgsu.edu/catalog/FIR/FIR39.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/FIR/FIR39.html)