

Health Information Management

The **Health Information Management** (HIM) major focuses on the organization, management, and protection of patient health information in healthcare settings. Students learn to handle medical records, ensure compliance with privacy laws, and use health information systems to improve patient care and operational efficiency. Graduates typically work in hospitals, medical offices, insurance companies, public health agencies, and health IT companies. This major prepares students to manage both the technical and regulatory aspects of health data, ensuring accurate and secure medical information management.

Job Title Examples:

- Health Information Technician
- Medical Records Coordinator
- Health Data Analyst
- Medical Coder
- Medical Billing Specialist
- Compliance Coordinator
- Health Information Specialist
- Records Management Assistant
- Health Information Systems Support
- Clinical Data Coordinator

Hard and Soft Skills Needed:

Hard Skills

1. Medical coding and billing
2. Proficiency with Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems
3. Data analysis and health data management
4. Knowledge of healthcare regulations (HIPAA compliance)
5. Medical terminology

Soft Skills

1. Attention to detail
2. Communication skills
3. Organizational skills
4. Problem-solving
5. Time management

Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:

A BS in Health Information Management qualifies students for entry-level roles, but additional certifications can enhance career prospects:

To Enter the Field:

1. Certified Health Information Administrator (CHIA):
 - Certification from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) may be required.
2. Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) or Certified Professional Coder (CPC):
 - Certifications for roles in medical coding.

To Advance:

1. Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS):
 - For roles focused on health data privacy and security.
2. Master's Degree (e.g., MHA, MBA):
 - For leadership or executive roles.

Summary:

Certifications like CHIA or CCS are common for entry, while advanced certifications and degrees support career advancement.

Professional or Student Associations:

- American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
- National Association of Healthcare Access Management (NAHAM)