

Step Up to the Future with

Health Information Technology

Health Information Technology Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

City College of San Francisco
Cosumnes River College
Cypress College
East Los Angeles College
Fresno City College
Mendocino College
San Diego Mesa College
Santa Barbara City College*
Chabot College (*Inactive status*)

Sources for Further Information About Health Information Technology:

www.ahima.org
www.californiahia.org
www.healthinformationcareers.com
www.cahiim.org
www.healthoccupations.org/ccchealth
<http://careerassist.ahima.org>

Colleges Offering Coding Certificate Programs Only:

De Anza College**
Santa Rosa Junior College**
Hartnell College
Gavilan College

*AHIMA approved certificate program

** Part of Medical Assisting Program

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9069.



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Health Information Technology

Step Up to the Future!



HIT Professionals in the Workforce:

HIT professionals are in great demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists HIT as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U.S. In 2006, the Department of Labor projects the HIT field to increase by 18% through 2016. Approximately 7,000 new professionals are needed to fill new positions or replace those who retire or leave the field while only 2,000 new professionals enter the workforce annually.

Health Information Technology (HIT) programs include the subjects of medicine, management, finance, information technology, and legal and ethical issues in one curriculum. This diverse curriculum allows HIT students to select from a variety of jobs and settings, including:

- Healthcare facilities
- Consulting firms
- Government agencies
- Insurance companies

- Pharmaceutical companies
- IT/Healthcare vendors
- Research agencies
- Your own company

What Type of Job Does an HIT Professional Hold?

- Clinical Coding Specialist
- Privacy Officer
- Data Quality Manager
- Risk Manager
- Compliance Officer
- HI Manager
- Reimbursement Specialist
- HI Director
- Documentation Specialist
- Data Analyst



What Professional Credentials Can I Obtain?

HIT and coding credentials can be pursued through AHIMA. They include:

- RHIT – Registered Health Information Technician (requires



Associate Degree)

- CCA – Certified Coding Associate (no degree certificate required, must pass exam)
- CCS/CCS-P – Certified Coding Specialist/ Certified Coding Specialist Physician Based (must pass exam offered by AHIMA)

Continue Your Education:

HIT Bachelor Degree Programs
HIT Masters Degree Programs

Is HIT Right for You?

If you:

- Would like to work in health care, but not directly with patients
- Have an aptitude for science, but also like management, law, and computers
- Enjoy working with professionals: physicians, nurses, lawyers, administrators and executives
- Want a career that offers flexibility in work environment

- Have a high level of organizational skills
- Embrace change and welcome challenge
- Feel that you have strong communication skills
- Value honesty and integrity in all aspects of your life

Then you should consider HIT as a career option!

How Much Can I Earn?

According to a 2006 salary survey conducted by the American Health Information Management Association, HIM professionals in the State of California earn, on average, \$73,229 annually. Salary is dependent upon level of education, job title and years of experience.



What Does an HIT Professional Do?

Health information technology is defined as the study of the principles and practices of acquiring, analyzing, and protecting digital and paper based medical information vital to providing quality patient care.

HIT is the link to clinicians, technology designers, and information technology; and is the value-adding bridge between patients' health information and payers, government, and regulating agencies. HIM (Health Information Management) practitioners demonstrate leadership and management of health information in all formats (paper, scanned, or computerized forms), and are a critical component of the electronic health record (EHR) workforce.

For more information visit <http://himcareers.ahima.org/whatishim1.html>

Contribute to Your Community by:

- Protecting patient confidentiality
- Advocating patient safety
- Helping prevent medical identify theft
- Reducing medication errors
- Promoting community awareness of Personal Health Records