



Health Information Technology Program Requirements

Industry Description

The Health Information Management (HIM) professional is an important connection between doctors, patients, insurance providers, and other healthcare professionals within the field. By maintaining, collecting, and analyzing health information, the HIM professional makes an important behind the scenes contribution to the delivery of quality care. Besides working with cutting-edge technology, HIM professionals are experts in the field of patient health information and health records.

Health information technicians ensure the quality of health information by:

- Verifying health records completeness and accuracy and proper entry into computer systems.
- Utilizing computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data
- Coding diagnoses and procedures for reimbursement and research
- Compiling and maintaining registry data
- Maintaining quality control of health records
- Assuring patient privacy and data security

Industry Prerequisite

Minnesota Law requires that any person who provides services that involve direct contact with patients and residents at a health care facility licensed by the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) have a background study conducted by the state. An individual who is disqualified from having direct contact with patients as a result of the background study, and whose disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical placement in a Minnesota licensed health care facility. The College will withdraw any student who is disqualified by the Minnesota Department of Health. The student is responsible for requesting the Commissioner to reconsider the disqualification.

Wages /Outlook/Advancement

The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in its Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007 editions, projects that employment for health information technicians is expected to grow much faster than the average through 2014. Credentialed health information technicians (RHITs) can look forward to many expanding career opportunities due to Increasing patient privacy/data security legislation and computerization of health information.

Wage information is available from the Minnesota Department of Education and the [Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development](#)

Program Description

The health information technology program prepares students for a career working in health care and settings where health information is utilized. A student graduating with a degree in Health Information Technology from Anoka Technical College is well prepared to assume an entry level position in this professional field. Specifically, program outcomes are designed to assure that graduates of the program will be prepared to demonstrate:

- essential professional and technical knowledge, skills and competencies fundamental to the health information management profession;
- effective written and oral communication skills;
- skills in using resources and technology;
- problem solving, team work and critical thinking skills.

For course sequence plans, please go to the college website under Academic Program Plans and click Health Information Technology, or contact the program advisor.

The Health Information Technology program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education](#) (CAHIIM).

IMPORTANT Anoka Technical College requires all students seeking diploma or A.A.S. awards to meet the following requirement, new student assessment scores exempting students from taking Basic Math, Reading Skills and Basic English, or completion of Bath Math, Reading Skills and/or Basic English courses with a “C” grade or better.

Graduation Prerequisites

A minimum course grade of a "C" must be earned in each of the courses to meet graduation requirements.

Length of Program

A.A.S. Degree 69 credits

Start Dates

Spring Semester January
Fall Semester August

Students can start coursework either semester but some courses are only offered once a year so students are encouraged to plan ahead by reviewing course sequence plans with program advisor.

Program Advisor

[MaryAnn Jackels](#)

Phone (763) 576-4970
E-mail mjackels@anokatech.edu

For information on how to apply or to schedule a campus tour please contact the [Admissions Office](#), Phone (763) 576-4850 or E-mail info@anokatech.edu

Health Information Technology Associate of Applied Science

69 Credits

General Education **18 Credits**

BIOL 1106	Introduction to Biology	4
ENGL 1105	Composition I	4
PSYC 1505	General Psychology	4
SPCH 1120	Public Speaking	3
SPCH 1200	Interpersonal Communication	3

Technical Education **51 Credits**

COMP1000	Introduction to Computers*	3
ADSC1040	Applied Medical Terminology	2
ADSC1171	Microsoft Excel	2
ADSC1181	Microsoft Access	2
ADSC1221	Introduction to Health Information Management	3
ADSC1231	ICD-9-CM Coding	3
ADSC1240	Coding & Reimbursement for Physicians' Services	3
ADSC1241	HIT Professional Practice Experience I	2
ADSC1242	Health Care Delivery Systems	2
ADSC1244	Legal and Ethical Aspects in Health Care	2
ADSC1245	Concepts of Health Data Registries ³	
ADSC1246	HIT Professional Practice Experience II	2
ADSC1247	Health Information Systems and Technology	3
ADSC1249	Advanced Coding & Reimbursement	2
ADSC1325	Quality & Performance Improvement in Healthcare	3
HLTH1000	Disease Conditions	2
HLTH1005	Anatomy & Physiology	4
HLTH1040	Medical Terminology	2
ITEC 1020	Project Management	2
NURS1140	Pharmacology	1
SMGT1602	Supervision Fundamentals	3

* The prerequisite to this course is COMP 0100 "Basic Computer Keyboarding"