Master of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management

College of Allied Health Sciences
AGENDA

1. Definitions of Health Information and Health Informatics
2. Graduate Programs in the Health Services and Information Management Department
3. Job Outlook, Job Opportunities, and Career Map
4. Admission Requirements
5. Program Details
6. Scholarships and Graduate Assistantship Opportunities
7. How to Apply
What is Health Information Management?

• It is the practice of acquiring, analyzing, and protecting digital and traditional medical information vital to providing quality patient care.

• HIM professionals are highly trained in the latest information management technology applications and understand the workflow in any healthcare provider organization from large hospital systems to the private physician practice.

• HIM professionals are vital to the daily operations management of health information and electronic health records.
What is Health Informatics?

- To understand health informatics, it is first necessary to understand the term informatics, which Hersh (2009) defines as: "the acquisition, storage and use of information."

- Health Informatics is a field that makes "optimal use of information, often aided by the use of technology, to improve individual health, health care, public health, and biomedical research."

- A person who practices health informatics is commonly known as an informatician or informaticist.
College of Allied Health Sciences HSIM Graduate Programs

- MS in Health Informatics and Information Management
  - HI track (thesis and internship)
  - RHIA track
- Health Informatics Certificate Program
- RHIA Certificate Program
Job Outlook for HIIM Professionals

Health informatics and information management (HIIM) is a fast-growing field in the health care industry. It is a program that combines clinical knowledge with information technology, business management, law, and finance. Because of this, degree-holders can choose from a range of job domains across the healthcare industry. If you are eyeing to take this program, an exciting career awaits you in the future as the demand for professionals in this field is expected to rise soon. In fact, the United States’ Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts that jobs related to this degree will rise by 20 percent between 2008 and 2016. Maybe just include bold type section on slude but certainly can refer to other content on slide in your talk.

A recent study shows clinical informatics skills are most important.

**DATA POINTS**

What Do Health Care Providers Say Are The Most Important Skills To Achieve Their IT Priorities?

- Clinical informatics: 37%
- Systems & data integration: 28%
- Technology & architecture support: 10%
- Data statistics & analytics: 9%
- Other / don't know: 15%

Among surveyed health care providers, 37% say that clinical informatics skills are the most important to help their organization achieve its IT priorities, and 28% say that systems and data integration skills are the most crucial, according to a report from PricewaterhouseCoopers' Health Research Institute.
Health Informatics (HI) Job Growth

Growth of HI Jobs by Type

Relative Distribution of HI Jobs

Fastest-growing HI Titles in 2011

AVERAGE POSTING DURATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATICS POSITIONS

- **Medical Record Clerk**: 18 days
- **Health Information Technician**: 26 days (Health Informatics roles that are up-skilling or being replaced by higher-skilled roles)
- **All Middle Skill Jobs**: 31 days
- **Clinical Analyst**: 38 days
- **Medical Coder**: 40 days
- **Clinical Application Developer**: 40 days
- **Medical Records & Coding Supervisor**: 41 days
- **Health Information Manager/Director**: 42 days

**Average Posting Duration (Days)**

SOURCE: BURNING GLASS TECHNOLOGIES
Job Opportunities

- Health information managers
- Quality improvement specialists
- Designers and planners for enterprise health information systems
- Health information security and privacy officers
- Chief information officers for health care enterprises
- Positions in private sector organizations such as medical software companies, pharmaceutical firms, and health care consulting firms
- Positions in government and education, training, and leadership roles in academic health information technology programs in 2 year community colleges
American Health Information Management Association’s Career Map

http://hicareers.com/careermap/
Tuition Comparison

ECU named 'Best Bang for the Buck' in the Southeast by “The Other College Guide: A Road Map to the Right School for You”

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/bestbang.cfm
Admission Requirements

• Undergraduate degree in health sciences or Computer/information sciences or business
  • $\geq 1$ statistics course in previous 5 yrs
  • $\geq 1$ computer programming course in previous 5 yrs

• Acceptable scores on the GRE or GMAT or official ECU transcript that documents completion of the Health Informatics or RHIA certificate program with a minimum 3.5 GPA
  • HI and RHIA certificate courses will transfer into the MS in HIIM program upon admission to the program
Program Details

• Students can begin the programs in the Fall or Spring.

• HI track (thesis or internship) is 39 s.h.; and the RHIA track is 45 s.h.

• The program can be completed in 2–2½ years for full-time students taking 3 courses per semester and who take courses during the summer terms.

• Part time students taking 2 courses per semester may need 3-3½years to complete the program.

• Again this depends on whether the student takes courses during the summer.

• Typical class size is 5 to 25 students.
# Curriculum and Course Plans

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Informatics</th>
<th>RHIA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COHE 6440  eHealth Care Information Systems</td>
<td>COHE 6310  Health Care Accounting and Financial Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 6450  Decision Support in Health Care</td>
<td>COHE 6460  Classification Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 7000  Thesis</td>
<td>COHE 6640  Management of Health Information Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>BIOS 7021  Biostatistics for Health Professionals</td>
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<td>COHE 6803  Internship in Health Informatics and Information Management</td>
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## CORE

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<tr>
<td>COHE 6410  Electronic Health Records</td>
<td>COHE 6490  Foundations of Health Information Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 6420  Evaluation Methods in Health Informatics</td>
<td>COHE 6510  Social and Organizational Issues of Health Information Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 6430  Database Systems in Health Care</td>
<td>COHE 6630  Quality Management in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 6470  Health Information Privacy and Security</td>
<td>HIMA 6060  Theories and Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>COHE 6480  Health Data Structure</td>
<td>COHE 6550  Health Informatics Project Design and Management</td>
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## FOUNDATION (Optional)

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<tr>
<td>COHE 6000  Health Care Systems and Problems</td>
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Internships

• The HI internship and RHIA tracks require an internship

• Faculty helps student find a site if needed

• Type of internship projects
Scholarship and Graduate Assistantship Opportunities

• Scholarships
  • Healthport Scholarship (MS in HIIM)
  • Peggy Wood Scholarship (MS in HIM, RHIA option)
  • CAHS Scholarships
    http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/ah/students.cfm
  • AHIMA Merit Scholarship
  • NCHIMA Scholarship

• Graduate Assistantships
  • Based on availability
Life as a Graduate Student

• How can I succeed as an online graduate student?
• What is the course load like?
• Can I work while I’m in the program?
• What type of support does the faculty provide?
In summary, graduates will be …

“Getting the right information to the right person at the right time”
How Do I Apply?

• Complete Graduate School Application (www.ecu.edu/gradschool/)
• Complete MS in HIIM Supplemental Application
• Application deadline
  • Fall semester: May 1
  • Spring semester: October 15
What Do I Need to Apply?

- Bachelor’s degree
- ALL transcripts - GPA
- Prerequisites
  - GRE or GMAT scores or official ECU transcript that documents completion of the Health Informatics certificate or RHIA certificate program with a minimum 3.5 GPA
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Fee for Graduate School Application
Bachelor’s Degree

• Must be completed prior to beginning MS in HIIM program
• Undergraduate degree in any discipline
• Often students will try to complete a degree that overlaps with prerequisites
Transcripts

• Submit all official transcripts with Graduate School application
• GPA
  • Minimum 3.0
  • Average 3.5
Prerequisites

• Introduction to Statistics
• Introduction to Computer Programming
GRE

- Verbal $\geq 147$
- Quantitative $\geq 148$
- Writing 3.5
- Average composite score
- $\geq 30^{th}$ percentile

Reference Letters

• Three required
• Suggestions:
  • Employer
  • Academic advisor
  • Professor
• You supply contact information
Personal Statement

• A statement of purpose outlining the goals for pursuing a graduate education in health informatics and information management.

• Suggestions:
  • Discuss your education and/or employment background and how you decided to pursue the MS in HIIM degree. Sell yourself to us.
Fee

- Application to Graduate School will NOT be processed until fee is paid.
Questions or Comments?
Contact Information

Susie Harris, PhD, RHIA, CCS
Director, MS in HIIM program
harrissus@ecu.edu

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/hsim/hiim.cfm
Drawing from completed survey form