

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Health information technologist/medical registrars advise organizations on computerized healthcare systems and analyze clinical data. Professionals who earn their health information systems degree can specialize in different areas of healthcare including medical billing, coding, health information, electronic health record (EHR) management, health administration, cancer registry management and more. Health information management is a combination of business, science, analytics, and information technology. It is suited for those that want to work in a healthcare field but do not want to be involved in patient care. Health information technologists and medical registrars typically do the following:

- Determine requirements for computerized healthcare systems
- Evaluate and help implement health information systems
- Organize/update information in clinical databases or registries
- Compile data and generate reports
- Track patient outcomes for quality assessment
- Validate the integrity of patient data
- Ensure privacy, security, and confidentiality of patients' health information

## **PAY**

\$67,310 median wage per year as of May 2024 (\$32.36 /hour)

## **JOB OUTLOOK**

16% (much faster than average), 2023-33

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Education requirements for health information technologists and medical registrars vary. Some workers typically need an associate degree; others need a bachelor's or higher degree. Certification may be required or preferred.

Registered health information technicians (RHIT) must pass a written examination offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). To take the examination, a person must graduate from a two-year associate degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

Related careers include medical coding and billing which are typically shorter term programs.

## **IMPORTANT SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES**

Health information technologists and medical registrars need:

- **Analytical skills** to interpret data and use their findings to suggest improvements.
- **Detail oriented** to be precise when working with clinical data.
- **Integrity** to act ethically when working with patient data to protect patient confidentiality, as required by law.
- **Interpersonal skills** to collaborate with other healthcare team members.
- **Problem-solving skills** to identify and address issues related to the use of healthcare information systems.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

**CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Metropolitan Campus, Cleveland*)

***Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management Technology***—Both day and evening programs are available.

[www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/health-information-management/index.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/health-information-management/index.html)

*The Medical Billing Specialist Certificate and Medical Coding Certificate is also available*

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS (*continued*)

### **LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Kirtland*)

Students earn an **Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management Technology** after successfully completing 65 credit hours of course work, which can be earned in two years.

[www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/health-information-management-departments](http://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/health-information-management-departments)

*Lakeland also has a medical billing/coding certificate program.*

### **SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Online, Dayton*)

**Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Management**—The Health Information Management program is designed to be completed in five (5) semesters on a full-time basis. Classes can be fully online.

[www.sinclair.edu/academics/divisions/HS/HIM/](http://www.sinclair.edu/academics/divisions/HS/HIM/)

*A Health Information Management Technical Certificate (one year program) and Medical Coding and Billing Short-term Certificate are also available.*

### **STARK STATE COLLEGE** (*North Canton*)

**Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology**— Each year in the fall a new group of students begins Stark State's five-semester health information management program.

[www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/health-information-management/](http://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/health-information-management/)

*Stark State College has a Medical billing certificate and a 36-credit-hour medical coding certificate program.*

### **UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI** (*fully online, Cincinnati*)

**Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Systems**—Fully online program-no campus visits required. Students graduate with an Associate degree, Professional Medical Coding Certificate, and [RHIT](#).

**Associate to Bachelor's Fast Track**—Health Information System graduates are guaranteed acceptance into UC's 100% online Bachelor degree program in Health Information Management.

<https://online.uc.edu/associate-programs/aas-health-information-systems/>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

American Health Information Management Association

[www.ahima.org/](http://www.ahima.org/)