

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 who want to work in the 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 the privacy, security, and confidentiality of patients' health information

PAY

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

JOB OUTLOOK

15% (much faster than average), 2024-34

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

Daytime and evening programs are available.

www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/health-information-management/index.html

The Medical Billing Specialist Certificate and Medical Coding Certificate are also available

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS *(continued)*

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Kirtland)

Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management Technology

A 65-credit-hour program that can be completed in two years.

www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/health-information-management-departments

Lakeland also has an administrative medical office assistant certificate and a medical coding certificate program.

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Online, Dayton)

Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Management

This 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/

A Health Information Management Technician 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

A five-semester health information management program that begins each fall.

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 certification.

Associate to Bachelor's Fast Track

Health Information Systems graduates are guaranteed acceptance into UC's 100% online Bachelor's degree program in Health Information Management.

online.uc.edu/associate-programs/aas-health-information-systems/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.ahima.org/

www.ahima.org/certification-careers/certifications-overview/rhit/