

# Health Information Management

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*The field of Health Information Management (HIM) combines the disciplines of medicine, management, finance, information technology, and law. Because of this unique mixture, HIM graduates can select a variety of work settings with varying responsibilities. Career opportunities for health information managers can be found in hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, university research departments, information technology vendors, and government. The positions held in these organizations range from managers of the health information management departments, information privacy officer, research associate, systems design consultant, data analyst, cancer registrar, and coding compliance analyst.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Communication skills and ability to work with a variety of people
- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to utilize information to make decisions
- Organizational skills and attention to detail

## **EDUCATION**

**Health Information Technician:** An associate degree in health information technology from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation.

**Health Information Administrator:** A bachelor's degree in health information administration from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (A)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

To become an RHIT (registered health information technician) an individual must earn an associate degree from an accredited health information technology program and pass the national certification exam.

To become an RHIA (registered health information administrator) one must earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited health information administration program and pass the national exam.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Health Information Management Association***

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

***Nebraska Health Information Management Association***

Web Address: [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)