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Jefferson
College

WHAT IS A HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN?

Medical records and health information technicians assemble patients' health information including medical history, symptoms, examination results, diagnostic tests, treatment methods, and all other healthcare provider services. Technicians organize and manage health information data by ensuring its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security. They regularly communicate with physicians and other healthcare professionals to clarify diagnoses or to obtain additional information. The increasing use of electronic health records (EHR) will continue to broaden and alter the job responsibilities of health information technicians. Technicians can specialize in many aspects of health information including medical coding, tumor registry, record analysis and release of information.

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF HEALTHCARE!

WHAT SKILLS/BACKGROUND DO HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS NEED?

Typical coursework in health information technology includes medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, health data requirements and standards, clinical classification and coding systems, data analysis, healthcare reimbursement methods, database security and management, and quality improvement methods. Applicants can improve their chances of admission into a postsecondary program by taking biology, math, chemistry, health, and computer science courses in high school.

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 20 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2026. Employment growth will result from the increase in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be performed. As the population continues to age, the occurrence of health-related problems will increase. Cancer registrars should experience job growth as the incidence of cancer increases from an aging population. In addition, with the increasing use of electronic health records, more technicians will be needed to complete the new responsibilities associated with electronic data management.



Job prospects should be very good. In addition to job growth, numerous openings will result from the need to replace medical record and health information technicians who retire or leave the occupation permanently. Technicians that demonstrate a strong understanding of technology and computer software will be in particularly high demand.

Reference: bls.gov.oco.cos103.htm

Flexible for working individuals!
Successful for full-time or part-time students!

Pre-requisites or courses integrated throughout the curriculum:

COL101 Introduction to College
or GUD136 Mastering the College Experience
BIO211 Anatomy and Physiology I
BIO212 Anatomy and Physiology II
BIO 211 A&P I and BIO 212 A&P II
or BIO 116 A&P for PreHospital Healthcare
ENG101 English Composition I
HST103 US History I
or PSC102 Missouri Governments and Constitutions
COM101 Fundamentals of Communication
PSY101 General Psychology
CIS125 Computer Concepts and Applications
BIO245 Pathophysiology

Health Information Technology (HIT) Courses:

HIT100 Introduction to Health Information Technology
HIT115 Healthcare Statistics
HIT122 Medical Terminology
HIT130 Healthcare Legal & Ethical Issues
HIT150 Introduction to Pharmacology
HIT200 Classification Systems I
HIT205 Healthcare Quality & Performance Improvement
HIT220 Electronic Health Systems
HIT230 Classification Systems II
HIT250 Healthcare Billing & Reimbursement
HIT255 Healthcare Management & Supervision
HIT260 HIT Professional Practice
HIT 261 HIT Capstone

DRUG SCREEN & BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

** The A.A.S degree in Health Information Technology at Jefferson College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).