

Health Information Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What do program graduates do?

A: Program graduates, usually referred to as health information management or technology professionals, utilize technology to help manage health information. In particular, they enter, maintain and report information using electronic health records. In addition, they code clinical data for the purposes of reimbursement. The HIM program has a strong focus on the collection and use of electronic health data for quality assurance and improvement.

Q: Is there a certification required in this field?

A: Many employers require employees working within the health information arena to achieve and maintain a credential from AHIMA, the American Health Information Management Association. Graduates of the HIM program are eligible to take the RHIT (Registered Health Information Technician) certification exam.

Q: What if I already have a certificate, diploma or degree?

A: Students who have already completed college level work may be eligible to transfer credits in for use in this program. Most commonly, students transfer in courses such as medical terminology, anatomy and physiology and some general education courses. If you already have an associate's degree or higher, you may be eligible to transfer in all your general education courses. Please note that some general education courses may still be required as they are program specific.

Q: Is there a waiting list for HIM?

A: There are immediate openings for students interested in the Health Information Management program. Students may begin their coursework in the spring or fall.

Q: Can this program be completed entirely online?

A: Most of this program can be completed entirely online, however the clinical experience requires you to work within a healthcare organization. In addition, the Electronic Health Records and General Anatomy and Physiology courses have some required face-to-face meetings. Students who are enrolling in the program from a distance should speak with the program director about courses in their location that can meet these requirements.

Q: Where do students complete their clinical experience?

A: Most students complete their clinical experience in the health information department of a hospital or clinic, however many different clinical experiences are available including long term care and specialty clinics. Students are given an opportunity to list their clinical preferences from those available and every attempt is made to make the assignment a reasonable distance from the student's home.

Q: Do I need to attend Smart Start (college orientation)?

A: Students are *highly encouraged* to attend MSTC's college orientation program known as Smart Start. Students learn how to use the college's technology including their student account (MyMSTC). Participants also learn how to register for classes and about many of the services available to students.

Q: What is clinical health work?

A: Students enrolling in health programs that require clinical experiences must document some information about their health including their record of immunizations for certain communicable diseases. This information is required by our clinical affiliates (sites where you will complete your clinical). Students complete the required health work using a private vendor called Certified Background. There is an additional fee for this service that is the responsibility of the student.