

WHAT IS HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT?

Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM) is an excellent career choice offering a variety of paths depending on one's personal interests and goals. According to the American Health Information Management Association, there are more than 120 different job titles that health information professionals hold, demonstrating the wide range of skills and opportunities for the health information professional. It is a perfect solution for a person who wants a "non-patient contact" health care career. It combines knowledge and skills in management, science, computer technology and information systems, legal concepts, and finance, as well as other areas into one career. It is one of the fastest growing professions in the nation, and there is a critical need for sharp, new people in the field. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics cites health information technology as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U.S.

HIIM professionals have vital roles in maintaining, collecting, and analyzing the data that physicians, nurses, and all healthcare providers rely on to deliver healthcare. HIIM professionals are experts at managing patient health information and records, administering computerized information systems, and coding and classifying the diagnoses and procedures for healthcare services provided.

The successful HIIM professional needs interpersonal skills to deal with the multitude of healthcare providers and other users of healthcare information. The need for information must be balanced with the patient's right to privacy and right to know how personal healthcare information is used. The HIIM professional serves as an advocate for privacy protection while assuring that information is available for reimbursement, legal needs, statistics, research, and quality outcomes. The HIIM professional works with finance personnel, attorneys, government agencies, and numerous other professionals who need healthcare information and assures that federal and state laws and regulations and accreditation and licensure standards are followed.

The HIIM professional must be flexible to deal with change and enjoy the challenge of a regularly changing environment. The HIIM professional is in the middle of the action in a healthcare facility because the HIIM department is the institution's healthcare information hub. It is an exciting, interesting place to be. Because the HIIM professional works with so many different people in the facility and has such a broad educational background, he or she will be able to assume more and more responsibility.

According to AHIMA, the average annual full-time HIIM salary across all work settings in 2012 was \$65,963; however, those working at consulting companies report earning the most (\$105,397 on average), those working in integrated healthcare delivery systems average a bit less (\$80,469), and those at non-provider settings reported \$75,518 on average. More than 50% of new HIIM graduates start with salaries in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range. Five years out, many earn \$50,000 to \$75,000 depending on location, position, and job responsibilities. The earning potential is excellent.

PRE-HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The College of Arts and Sciences, along with the Haslam College of Business (HCB), offers course work that prepares students to enter the Health Informatics and Information Management program at UT Health Science Center in Memphis. Admission to UT Health Science Center requires completion of 92 hours of prescribed courses for the Entry-Level Master's program.

The program in Memphis leads to a Master's in Health Informatics and Information Management. This program has been in existence since 1954, and over 600 graduates have completed the program. The Entry-Level Master's program at UT Memphis is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The entry-level program has excellent outcomes, and results on the national certification examination are above the national average.

One week per semester, students are required to be either on campus or to attend classes virtually using video technology. For the rest of the semester, students utilize the course management system via the Internet to attend classes, complete assignments, and interact with classmates and faculty members at times convenient to their schedules. Students may continue to work full time and choose to complete the program in either a full-time or part-time capacity. Part-time students must take a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

The program has outstanding faculty members who have served or are currently serving in numerous leadership positions in national, regional, state and local levels of the professional organization. Adjunct faculty and guest speakers for classes include hospital administrators, attorneys, physicians, and other health care professionals who provide valuable, real-world insights.

The pre-health information management program described below is based on the requirements for admission to the program at the UT Health Science Center. Students wishing to prepare for professional training at other institutions should consult the catalogs of those institutions to determine the specific preparation required for admission.

PREREQUISITE COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
English 101-102	6
Social Sciences	6
Recommended social sciences include psychology, history, economics (highly recommended), sociology, etc.	
English Literature	6
Three hours of speech may be substituted for three hours of English literature (CMST 210/240).	
Statistics 201	3
Statistics 201 has a prerequisite of Math 125. MATH 125 has a prerequisite of MATH 119 or 130 or 123 or a Math ACT subscore of 125.	
BCMB 230 Human Physiology	5
Chemistry 110 or 130 is a prerequisite for BCMB 230.	
EEB 240 Human Anatomy	4
EEB 240 has a prerequisite of Biology 101 or 102 or 150-159 or 160-159 or BCMB 230 or Micro 210.	
Management 300	3
Management 300 has a prerequisite of Management 201 and junior standing. Management 201 has a co-requisite of Accounting 200.	
Medical Terminology	3
Classics 273 at UTK will NOT fulfill this requirement. Health Information Technology (HIT) 1010 taught through Tennessee's RODP course will satisfy the requirement.	
Computer Science 100	3
Human Resource Management (HRM) 360	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to majors in the Haslam College of Business (HCB) and has prerequisites of BUAD 331 or 337 or 341. • BUAD331 is restricted to HCB majors and has a co-requisite of BUAD 332 and prerequisites of a C or better in all progression courses (see catalog for list). • BUAD 332 is restricted to HCB majors, has a co-requisite of BUAD 331, and requires a C or better in all progression courses (see catalog for list). • BUAD 341 is restricted to HCB majors and has a prerequisite of a C or better in all progression courses and a co-requisite of BUAD 342. • BUAD 342 is restricted to HCB majors, has a co-requisite of BUAD 341, as well as a C or better in all progression courses and a C or better in BUAD 242. • BUAD 242 is restricted to HCB majors, with a co-requisite of STATS 201 and prerequisites of ECON 201 and ACCT 200. • Completion of HRM 360 will require majoring in HCB or gaining prior approval from HCB to pursue upper-level coursework. 	
Systems Analysis and Design	3
Not offered at UT; must be taken at another college or university.	
Information Technology (INMT) 342 Introduction to Database Systems	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to juniors majoring in HCB and has prerequisites of INMT 341 or BAS 320 with a grade of C or better. • BAS 320 has a prerequisite of STATS 201. 	

- INMT 341 has a co-requisite of BUAD 342 and is restricted to juniors majoring in HCB.
- BUAD 342 is restricted to HCB majors and has a co-requisite of BUAD 341 and a prerequisite of a C or better in BUAD 242 and all the progression requirements (see catalog for list).
- BUAD 341 is restricted to HCB majors and has a prerequisite of all progression requirements and a co-requisite of BUAD342.
- BUAD 242 is restricted to HCB majors and has a co-requisite of STATS 201 and prerequisites of ECON 201 and ACCT 200.
- Math eligibility is determined by ACT/SAT scores and previous college-level coursework.
- Completion of INMT 342 will require majoring within HCB or gaining prior approval from HCB to pursue upper-level coursework.

Electives 44

Suggested electives include organization and management, personnel/human resources management, management information systems, finance, accounting, or other appropriate electives. Courses that are prerequisite to required courses will also count as electives. Suggested electives at UT include: ACCT 200 Foundations of Accounting, BULW 301 Legal Environment of Business, and MGT 336 Foundations of Organizational Behavior. See catalog for pre-requisite courses.

Applicants should note that grades of D are not acceptable in required courses. Physical education, applied art and music classes, and ROTC are not counted toward the total hours or for calculating the GPA. Verification is required of the completion of one year of American history at the high school or college level. At least 12 hours of prerequisite courses must be at the upper division level. Questions regarding substitution of hours or courses should be directed to the chair of the program.

The following is a sample curriculum for UT students.

FRESHMAN	CREDIT HOURS
English 101-102	6
Biology 101 or 150-159, or 160-159	4-5
Social science	3
Math 125	3
Economics 201	4
Chemistry 100-110 or 120-130	8
Elective	<u>3</u>
	31-32
SOPHOMORE	
Accounting 200	3
English literature	6
(Speech may substitute for 3 hours)	
Management 201	3
Statistics 201	3
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 240	4
Computer Science 100	3
Elective (see suggested electives above)	<u>9</u>
	31
JUNIOR	
Biochemistry Cellular Molecular Biology 230	5
Medical Terminology	3

Management 300	3
Human Resource Management 360*	3
Systems Analysis and Design*	3
Information Management 342*	3
Electives (see suggested electives above)	<u>12</u>
	32

*requires Haslam College of Business approval

TOTAL HOURS: 93-95 minimum

PROGRAM PLANNING

The importance of program planning for pre-health information management students cannot be overstressed. It is essential for these students to develop their programs carefully and creatively in order to present a well-rounded pre-professional program. Furthermore, because there is competition for admission, students are strongly encouraged to select electives which will enable them to adapt to alternative programs in the event admission into a Health Informatics and Information Management program is not achieved.

Pre-health advisors are available in Arts and Sciences Advising Services, 313 Ayres Hall, to help students plan programs with maximum flexibility. However, in the final analysis, it is the responsibility of each student to determine the program which will best satisfy his or her particular needs.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)

Alpha Epsilon Delta is a pre-health honor society that seeks to provide information and opportunities for students with an interest in the health professions. The Tennessee Beta Chapter of AED is active at The University of Tennessee. AED activities include information sessions on preparing to apply to professional schools, local speakers from the medical community, trips to Tennessee medical schools and health centers, and service activities. The schedule of meetings is available at <http://aedutk.wix.com/aed-utk/>.

Requirements for national membership include three terms of college (at least one at UT), a cumulative GPA of 3.2, a science GPA of 3.2, and participation in AED sponsored events and meetings. Students interested in AED should first affiliate themselves with the organization as a pledge during the first semester at college attendance at UT. Applications for both pledge status and national membership are available in Arts and Sciences Advising Services, 313 Ayres Hall, and at the organizational website. A student who does not meet the criteria to become a national member may continue as a pledge. Pre-health students wishing to receive notification of pre-health activities and AED events should send an e-mail to rpolson@utk.edu to request to be added to the pre-health distribution list.

SEMINAR FOR PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

During each fall semester, Arts and Sciences Advising Services offers a one credit hour course entitled *"Introduction to Health Care Delivery."* This one credit hour seminar course is taught in the Wood Auditorium of UT Medical Center. The course provides weekly seminars on topics such as managed care, family practice, ethical issues in medicine, malpractice, allied health programs, and many others. The course is listed in the timetable under Interdisciplinary Programs 100. The course is open to any interested student.

APPLICATION TO UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

The deadline for applications to the entry-level HIIM program each year is **March 1** and the late deadline is **July 1** for the fall semester start date. Classes begin in August. A personal interview with the Health Information Management Admissions Committee will be granted by invitation only. Additional admission requirements include a pre-professional evaluation from the college of university attended and a visit to a HIIM department in a hospital. At the time of application, each applicant is required to have official transcripts from each school attended sent directly to the UT Health Science Center. UT transcripts may be requested online through the MyUTK portal.

Students with a minimum 2.0 on a 4.0 scale are eligible for consideration although the average GPA for entering students is well above this minimum. The following is also considered in determining admissions to the program: academic record, pre-professional evaluations or letters of recommendation, past work experience, knowledge and understanding of the HIIM profession, and the information gained from the personal interview with members of the admissions committee.

While priority must be given to Tennessee residents who meet the admission requirements, out-of-state residents are encouraged to apply. Out-of-state students have been admitted to all of the recently admitted classes.

Visits to Health Information Management departments are the best way to see the Health Information Manager in action. Directors in the Knoxville area welcome visits from prospective students. At the present time, interested students may contact Vicky Ferguson (Mercy Health Systems) at (865) 545-7824 or Sarah Bowman at (865) 454-0622 to discuss the career in Health Information Management.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND SELECTION DATES

Class Size	15
Entering Date	August
Early Application Deadline	March 1
Final Class Selection Date	June 1
Late Application Deadline	July 1 (if space permits)
Late Application Selection Date	Aug 1 (if space permits)
Length of Program	4 semesters/61 hours
Average GPA of admits	3.35

For further information concerning admissions statistics and required grade point average, please contact the Health Information Management program directly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM:

University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Department of Health Information Management
920 Madison Avenue, Suite 518
Memphis, TN 38163
(901) 448-6486; fax (901) 448-1629
<http://www.uthsc.edu/health-professions/him>
him@uthsc.edu

Arts and Sciences Advising Services
313 Ayres Hall
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1325
(865) 974-4481
<http://www.artsci.utk.edu/advising>

American Health Information Management Association
233 North Michigan, 21st floor
Chicago, IL 60601-5809
(312) 233-1100
<http://www.ahima.org>

The information in this bulletin is subject to revision. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a pre-health advisor on a regular basis.

ADMISSION TO THE HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT. ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, AND COMPLETION OF THE PRE-HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DOES NOT ASSURE ADMISSION TO UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
EEO/TITLE IX/SECTION 504 STATEMENT

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

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