

## General Program Description

The field of Health Information Management (HIM) combines the disciplines of medicine and information technology. Health Information Management at Dakota State University is made up of two majors: the B.S. in Health Information Administration and the A.S. in Health Information Technology. These programs are designed utilizing a 2+2 progression format, with the same curriculum in the first two years of both majors. Students completing the courses for the associate degree in Health Information Technology may choose to graduate with that degree, or may apply for admission into the Health Information Administration program and, if accepted, complete the requirements of the Bachelor of Science degree.

An important part of the HIT Program is the supervised professional practices. These internships are completed at a variety of healthcare facilities to provide for hands-on reinforcement of the classroom instruction.

The program is accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) in conjunction with AHIMA's Council on Accreditation.

### ***Student Comments***

*Lindsey stated: DSU is a great school to come to, it has a little campus atmosphere, you don't get lost in the crowds and become a number. The instructors are always willing to help and you feel like they actually care about your success.*

*Sara stated: I thought the HIM program at DSU was wonderful. I feel I have received an excellent education in the HIM field. It was a great experience for me and I will always be able to use the knowledge I have learned.*

## Employment Opportunities Upon Graduation

HIM professionals play a critical role in maintaining, collecting and analyzing the data that doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers rely on to deliver quality healthcare. They are experts in managing patient health information and medical records and coding the diagnosis and procedures for healthcare services provided to patients. HIM professionals work in a multitude of settings throughout the healthcare industry including hospitals, physician offices and clinics, long-term care facilities, insurance companies, government agencies and home care providers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of HIM professionals is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2008. On top of strong job prospects, competitive salaries also await HIM graduates. Most new HIM graduates with an associate's degree jump right in and earn \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually. (Information from the American Health Information Management website at [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org))

HIM professionals enjoy a broad selection of job opportunities and options for professional growth. Based on your skills, education, and interests, here are some positions available to you:

- Health Data Analyst
- Insurance Claims Analyst
- Records Technician Specialist
- Clinical Coding Specialist
- Physician Practice Manager
- Patient Information Coordinator

## College of Business & Information Systems

### A.S. Health Information Technology



Contact Information:

### College of Business & Information Systems

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