

# HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Is Health Information Technology for me?

*The field is for you if you ...*

- Have an interest in the health care services, but not patient care.
- Have an aptitude for applied sciences, including biology and computers.
- Enjoy working in an office setting.
- Detail-oriented, organized

## What skills will I need for this field?

*You will need to ...*

- Monitor integrity of health information.
- Analyze and code medical records.
- Manage aggregate data based on care of patients.
- Ensure appropriate access to confidential health information.
- Compile statistics.

## What is the work atmosphere like?

A health information professional collects, analyzes and manages the information that steers the health care industry. The professional's main responsibility is to maintain records, both computer-based and paper. The health information professional orchestrates collections of many kinds of documentation from a variety of sources, monitors the integrity of the information, and ensures appropriate access to the individual records.

Professionals also manage aggregated data based on the care of patients, collect health care data by abstracting and encoding information, use computer programs to interpret data, and ensure the data's validity.

## What are my degree options?

### **Certificates**

Health Information - Acute Care Coding Health Information - Ambulatory Care Coding Physician's Office Coding and Billing

### **Associate's Degree**

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-year colleges and universities. For example: Illinois State University, University of Illinois Chicago.

### **Professional Certification**

After AAS graduation, the student is able to sit for the national accreditation exam. After successful completion, the graduates may use R.H.I.T. (Registered Health Information Technician) behind their names.

## What are my career opportunities?

Health Information Technology (HIT) is one of the top 10 growing fields that does not require a bachelor's degree. Jobs will be plentiful throughout the decade. HIT is one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U. S., according to the U. S. Department of Labor. Graduates work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, surgicenters, managed care, nursing homes and other health care facilities.

## What can I do with these degrees?

*If you have completed ...*

### **Certificate**

Acute Care Coding, Ambulatory Care Coding,  
Physician's Office Coding and Billing

### **Associate in Applied Science Degree**

Health Information Technician

## How can I prepare now?

*Recommended courses ...*

### **Math**

Algebra 1

### **Science**

Biology with a Lab, Anatomy and Physiology  
(if possible)

### **Communications**

English (four years)

### **Occupational Electives**

Keyboarding, Psychology

## What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Health Information Administrator

## What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

HIT 1101: Fundamentals of Health Information Technology  
Anatomy 1500: Survey of Human Anatomy and Physiology  
Health Science 1110: Biomedical Terminology  
English 1101: Composition I  
Students must apply for admission to HIT program. See your health information technology advisor for current C.O.D. admission requirements and specific requirements of the baccalaureate-granting institution.

## Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social, and Behavioral Sciences Division  
(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator, or go to [www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu).