Health Information Technology (HIT) Program

Application for Program

Application Deadline

Open Until Full

For more information
IRSC Information Call Center
1-866-792-4772

www.irsc.edu
IRSC OVERVIEW

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE is a public, comprehensive college with a nationally recognized commitment to helping students succeed. The College was selected out of 1,000 colleges nationwide as a Top Ten Finalist for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Excellence and has been designated an Achieving the Dream™ college for support of students from enrollment to employment. Over 30,000 people enroll in IRSC courses each year, attracted by the College’s combination of quality, convenience and affordable tuition. IRSC is designated as the 3rd Most Affordable College in the country by the U.S. Department of Education, and students benefit from many scholarship and financial aid opportunities.

Every aspect of IRSC is focused on helping students succeed with small classes, an array of student support services, convenient campuses, and online courses. IRSC offers over 150 programs, including Bachelor’s degrees, Associate in Arts degrees for continuing education at IRSC or a university, Associate in Science degrees for in-demand careers after two years of training, short-term certificate programs and Quick Job Training.

EA/EO Statement

Indian River State College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or genetic information in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Anthony J. Iacono, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs/Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator
IRSC Main Campus ▪ 3209 Virginia Ave. ▪ Fort Pierce, FL 34981
(772) 462-7215

Accreditation of the Health Information Management/Technology Program

CAHIIM – The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education—is the accrediting body for degree-granting programs in health informatics and information management. CAHIIM serves the public interest by establishing quality standards for the educational preparation of future health information management (HIM) professionals. When a program is accredited by CAHIIM, it means that it has voluntarily undergone a rigorous review process and has been determined to meet or exceed the standards set by the sponsoring professional organization—the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)—in cooperation with the Commission. CAHIIM accreditation is a way to recognize and publicize best practices for HIM Education Programs.
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The following items are found in the Health Science Division Student Handbook. (This list has been updated as of 10/14/15.)

1. Health Science Division Purpose Statement
2. Health Science Statement of Ethics
3. Health Science Plagiarism Regulation
4. Email/Contact Information
5. Health Science Use of Electronic Regulation
6. Health Science Confidentiality Statement
7. Health Science Grading
8. Health Science Retention Regulation
9. Health Science Probation Regulation
10. Health Science Readmission and Dismissal Regulation
11. Health Science Complaint Guidelines
12. Health Science Liability, Accident and Insurance Regulation
13. Health Requirements
14. Indian River State College Health Science Post Exposure Protocol
15. Health Science Background Check Regulation
16. Health Science Substance Abuse Regulation
17. Health Science Dress Code/Professional Standards
THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST

Health information technologists are the skilled professionals responsible for maintaining components of health information systems consistent with the medical, administrative, ethical, legal, accreditation and regulatory requirements of the health care delivery system. Health information professionals play an important role in the organization, processing, and maintenance of vital information such as patient’s symptoms and medical history, the result of the examinations, report of X-rays and lab tests, and diagnosis and treatment plans. They also manage information related to research, planning, and evaluation of health care services.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Note: Necessary forms can be found in the back of this booklet.

1. Meet with an academic advisor to review program requirements and complete an Indian River State College Admission Application online @ www.irsc.edu.

2. Complete the Health Science Application at www.irsc.edu and pay application fee. Fee is non-refundable.

3. Request former school and/or college(s) forward official final transcript(s) to the Admissions Office at IRSC. Confirm receipt of these transcripts by logging into www.irsc.edu; select Register & Pay; sign in using your Student ID and Pin Number.


5. Preference will be given to students who have completed HSC2531 Medical Terminology I and BSC1084 Survey of the Human Body before the Fall semester.
All HIT applications will be reviewed after the application deadline. Students will be notified by the Health Science Division of their provisional acceptance into the program through RiverMail. Upon notice of provisional acceptance, students will be given direction on completing Drug/Background/Physical Exams.

I. Submit a $100 check payable to IRSC to the Health Science Division Office (Main Campus, Fort Pierce, 3rd floor, H building) to cover mandatory drug screening and a FBI Criminal Background check (fingerprinting).

II. Submit Physical Exam Form complete with immunization documentation. Visit www.irsc.edu. Click on Programs & Careers and then Health Science Programs. In the Resources box, select Health Science Physical Examination and Immunization Form.

III. Submit proof of personal health insurance.

Satisfactory results of the drug and background screenings must be on file in the Health Science Division Office to receive final acceptance. Students will then be issued a final acceptance letter to serve as a permit to register for HIM courses.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING ONLINE

1. Go to the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu
2. Click Register & Pay
3. Click Sign in to MyIRSC and enter your Student ID and pin number
4. Go to Registration (blue menu bar) and select Health Science Application
5. Place a check mark in the I Agree statement.
6. In the Health Science Program box, select A.S. Health Information Technology Application Deadline: this automatically fills in the program deadline date.
7. Select Submit. Select OK
8. Select Pay Fee Now and then PAY NOW
9. Select process for payment
10. Select $30 application fee
11. Enter credit card details
12. Submit Payment

Students can log into MyIRSC at www.irsc.edu to check the status of their application.

INTRODUCTION

The Health Information Technology program is offered through the IRSC Health Sciences Division. Interested students must apply to the program. The HIT program is offered as an online full-time cohort program. Students must follow the curriculum schedule and complete the HIT program in 2 years. Contact Educational Services, any IRSC Campus or the Health Science Division at (772) 462-7550, or toll-free at (866) 792-4772, ext. 7550, for additional information.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates who wish to be considered for the Health Information Technology program at Indian River State College must complete the procedures outlined on the checklist on page 1. The IRSC Application for Admission should be completed at www.irsc.edu. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the application process is complete. No notices will be sent. Additional program specifics are outlined in this booklet.

NOTE: If at any time during the application process you have a change of address or other personal information, submit this information to the Educational Services Division on any IRSC campus and notify the Health Science Division at (772) 462-7550. This will expedite notification of acceptance status.

PRE-ADMISSION ADVISEMENT

Pre-advisement is required for admission to the Health Information Technology program. Pre-advisement includes information on the application process, admissions requirements, program guidance and counseling, financial aid and time management.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Students interested in applying to any health science program should plan to attend the appropriate, regularly scheduled, program information session for direction and assistance with the application process prior to the application deadline date. The information session addresses any questions or concerns prospective applicants may have. The session also assists students in understanding how to achieve a “qualified” applicant status. No reservations or fees are required to attend.

Health Information Technology sessions are held at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce
Mary L. Fields Health Science Center
2nd Tuesday of each month
Building H, Room 306
4:00 p.m.

APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE

Application Deadline: Open Until Full
APPICANT REVIEW

Consideration for admission into the Health Information Technology program will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Student must be 18 years of age or over.
2. IRSC Admission Status must be complete.
3. Upon review of completed application, a personal interview may be requested.
4. Preference will be given to students with a 2.5 GPA or higher.
5. Preference is given to students who have the following courses completed: (1) Medical Terminology (2) Survey of Human Body.

ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

HIT applicants are provisionally accepted by a selective admission process after the application deadline. Students will then be notified to register for classes and to complete a drug screen, criminal background check and physical with immunizations documented and personal health insurance for final acceptance. Details regarding these final requirements are outlined below.

DRUG SCREENING

Refer to the IRSC website www.irsc.edu. Click Program & Careers and then Health Science Programs. In the Resources box, select Drug/Background Checks.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Refer to the IRSC website www.irsc.edu. Click Program & Careers and then Health Science Programs. In the Resources box, select Drug/Background Checks.

HEALTH/MEDICAL RECORD

A completed medical health form must also be submitted and approved by the Program Director. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records.

Applicants who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to a Health Science program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record, verified by a licensed physician or an ARNP, must be submitted.

Indian River State College and partnering clinical sites require all health science students who register for clinical courses to have personal health insurance. Students will be asked to show proof of personal health insurance by presenting their insurance policy number, the name of the insurance provider and the telephone number of the provider to clinical preceptors or administrators. If students do not have health insurance or do not provide proof of health insurance, they will not be eligible for clinic rotation which will result in termination from the program. The Health and Wellness Center has more information on personal health insurance plans. Call them at (772) 462-7825 for more information.
STUDENT DRUG SCREEN, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND MEDICAL RECORDS

When received, these records will become the property of the College, and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers. Students who are out of the program for six months or more must request new records.

NON-ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Applicants with Drug Screen or Criminal Background check issues may not be accepted into the program. Prior to requesting and paying for these services, applicants with related concerns should meet with DeVonica Vaught, Program Director, to discuss.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

A list of approximate cost is located on the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu. Click Programs & Careers and then Health Science Programs. Click Health Information Technology. In the Application Book box, select Program Expenses. In addition to these cost, the candidate should allow for room, board, transportation and personal living expenses. Note that non-Florida resident tuition is a higher rate per credit hour, which will increase total fees accordingly.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid (grants, loans, work-study) is available to those who qualify. Complete the FAFSA and IRSC Supplemental Financial Aid Application to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at (772) 462-7450 or toll-free at 1-866-900-3243 (FAID).

Scholarships designated for students in the Health Science programs may also be available. Complete the new IRSC ONLINE Scholarship Application, available at www.irscfoundation.org.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact the IRSC Foundation Office at (772) 462-4786, or toll-free at 1-866-792-4772, ext. 4786.
CURRICULUM

Refer to the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu. Click Programs and Careers and then Health Science Programs. Choose Health Information Technology. In the Application Book box, select Program Schedule.

CURRICULUM NOTES

Students in the Health Information Technology program pursue an A.S. Degree and upon completion will be eligible to take the National Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification exam. Students accepted into the Health Information Technology program receive a strong general college education with a foundation in Health Information Technology. The program consists of classroom instruction, lab practice and professional practice time in a variety of healthcare facilities and culminates in professional practice at local healthcare facilities.

HIT students must enroll in classes on a full-time basis.

Two classes to be taken in the HIT program, as part of the professional practice component, are HIM 2805L Professional Practice Experience 1, and HIM 2815L Professional Practice Experience 2. You must have the permission of the Program Director to enroll in these classes. Professional Practice experiences are only scheduled during normal business hours, so students should plan accordingly.

Students must provide their own transportation to and from clinical sites. Students must agree to abide by the dress and conduct codes before being allowed to participate in Professional Practice activities.

Direct all questions to the Program Director, DeVonica Vaught at (772) 462-7535 or Medical Technologies Department Chair, Marilyn Barbour at (772) 462-7534.
COMPETENCIES UPON COMPLETION OF THE HIT PROGRAM

Upon successful completion of the program, the student should be able to:

1. Gather, validate and analyze data to support patient-related, departmental and facility-wide health care information systems.
3. Report data using appropriate data presentation techniques and effective oral and written communication skills.
4. Assign diagnostic and procedural codes with required degree of accuracy.
5. Determine the contents of patient-related, departmental and facility-wide health care information systems.
6. Select resources to support patient-related, departmental and facility-wide health care information systems.
7. Revise health care information systems as required by organizational and departmental demands.
8. Implement new and revised health care information systems by working independently or as a team member.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of patient-related, departmental and facility-wide health care information systems.
10. Deal effectively and appropriately with others demonstrating responsibility, initiative, integrity, good time management skills and the ability to work in teams.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is A Health Information Technologist?

Health information technologists are the skilled professionals responsible for maintaining components of health information systems consistent with the medical, administrative, ethical, legal, accreditation and regulatory requirements of the health care delivery system. As a health information technologist, you may be responsible for:

- Organizing and evaluating medical records for completeness and accuracy
- Ensuring that all forms are present, properly identified and signed and that all necessary information is on a computer file
- Talking to physicians and other members of the health care team to clarify diagnoses or get additional information
- Applying your knowledge of disease processes, classification manuals and software
- Tabulating, analyzing and reporting data to help improve patient care, control costs and respond to surveys
- Compiling and maintaining medical and statistical information about patients for reimbursement, facility planning, marketing, risk management, utilization management, quality assessment and research
- Releasing patient information in accordance with federal, state and local laws
- Maintaining the confidentiality and security of patient information
- Supervising a section of a medical records department or directing medical records departments at small facilities
What is Coding?

The collection of information from computer health records or paper documents and conversion of the diagnoses and procedures for healthcare services provided to patients into codes (numbers) which are directly tied to dollars paid for these services.

Where will I work?

You have a multitude of work settings from which to choose including hospitals, physician offices and clinics, long-term care facilities, insurance companies, government agencies and home care providers.

How much money will I earn with this degree?


How can I learn more about Health Information Technology and Coding careers?

Contact the American Health Information Management Association, 233 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 2150, Chicago, IL 60601; (312) 233-1100; www.ahima.org

Get firsthand information on the field by calling your local hospital or clinic and asking to speak with someone in the Health Information or Medical Records Department.

Discuss your interest with the Health Information Technology Program Director:

DeVonica Vaught, M.S.H.I., R.H.I.A.
Health Information Technology Department
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
(772) 462-7535 or (772) 462-7550
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)
Domains, Subdomains, and Tasks

I. Domain: Health Data Management
   A. Subdomain: Health Data Structure, Content and Standards
      1. Collect and maintain health data (such as data elements, data sets, and databases).
      2. Conduct analysis to ensure that documentation in the health record supports the diagnosis and reflects the patient’s progress, clinical findings, and discharge status.
      3. Apply policies and procedures to ensure the accuracy of health data.
      4. Verify timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and appropriateness of data and data sources for patient care, management, billing reports, registries, and/or databases.

   B. Subdomain: Healthcare Information Requirements and Standards
      1. Monitor and apply organization-wide health record documentation guidelines.
      2. Apply policies and procedures to ensure organizational compliance with regulations and standards.
      3. Maintain the accuracy and completeness of the patient record as defined by organizational policy and external regulations and standards.
      4. Assist in preparing the organization for accreditation, licensing, and/or certification surveys.

   C. Subdomain: Clinical Classification Systems
      1. Use and maintain electronic applications and work processes to support clinical classification and coding.
      2. Apply diagnosis/procedure codes according to current nomenclature.
      3. Ensure accuracy of diagnostic/procedure groupings such as DRG, MSDRG, APC, and so on.
      4. Adhere to current regulations and established guidelines in code assignment.
      5. Validate coding accuracy using clinical information found in the health record.
      6. Use and maintain applications and processes to support other clinical classification and nomenclature systems (ex. DSM IV, SNOMED-CT).
      7. Resolve discrepancies between coded data and supporting documentation.

   D. Subdomain: Reimbursement Methodologies
      1. Apply policies and procedures for the use of clinical data required in reimbursement and prospective payment systems (PPS) in healthcare delivery.
      2. Apply policies and procedure to comply with the changing regulations among various payment systems for healthcare services such as Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, and so forth.
      3. Support accurate billing through coding, chargemaster, claims management, and bill reconciliation processes.
4. Use established guidelines to comply with reimbursement and reporting requirements such as the National Correct Coding Initiative.
5. Compile patient data and perform data quality reviews to validate code assignment and compliance with reporting requirements, such as outpatient prospective payment systems.
6. Ensure accuracy of diagnostic/procedural groupings such as DRG, APC, and so on.

II. **Domain: Health Statistics, Biomedical Research and Quality Management**

   A. **Subdomain: Healthcare Statistics and Research**
   1. Collect, maintain, and report data for clinical indices/databases/registries to meet specific organization needs such as medical research and disease registries.
   2. Collect, organize, and present data for quality management utilization management, risk management and other related studies.
   3. Comprehend basic descriptive, institutional, and healthcare vital statistics.

   B. **Subdomain: Quality Management and Performance Improvement**
   1. Abstract and report data for facility-wide quality management and performance improvement programs.
   2. Analyze clinical data to identify trends that demonstrate quality, safety, and effectiveness of healthcare.

III. **Domain: Health Services Organization and Delivery**

   A. **Subdomain: Healthcare Delivery Systems**
   1. Apply current laws, accreditation, licensure, and certification standards related to health information initiatives from the national, state, local, and facility levels.
   2. Differentiate the roles of various providers and disciplines throughout the continuum of healthcare and respond to their information needs.

   B. **Subdomain: Healthcare Privacy, Confidentiality, Legal, and Ethical Issues**
   1. Adhere to the legal and regulatory requirements related to the health information infrastructure.
   2. Apply policies and procedures for access and disclosure of personal health information.
   4. Maintain user access logs/systems to track access to and disclosure of identifiable patient data.
   5. Apply and promote ethical standards of practice.

IV. **Domain: Information Technology & Systems**

   A. **Subdomain: Information and Communication Technologies**
   1. Use technology, including hardware and software, to ensure data collection, storage, analysis, and reporting of information.
   2. Use common software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, word processing, graphics, presentation, e-mail, and so on in the execution of work processes.
3. Use specialized software in the completion of HIM processes such as record tracking, release of information, coding, grouping, registries, billing quality improvement, and imaging.
4. Apply policies and procedures to the use of networks, including intranet and Internet applications, to facilitate the electronic health record (EHR), personal health record (PHR), public Health, and other administrative applications.
5. Participate in the planning, design, selection, implementation, integration, testing, evaluation, and support for EHRs.

B. **Subdomain: Data, Information, and File Structures**
   1. Apply knowledge of database architecture and design (such as data dictionary) to meet departmental needs.

C. **Subdomain: Data Storage and Retrieval**
   1. Use appropriate electronic or imaging technology for data/record storage.
   2. Query and generate reports to facilitate information retrieval using appropriate software.
   3. Apply retention and destruction policies for health information.

D. **Subdomain: Data Security**
   1. Apply confidentiality and security measures to protect electronic health information.
   2. Protect data integrity and validity using software or hardware technology.
   3. Apply departmental and organizational data and information system security policies.
   4. Use and summarize data compiled from audit trails and data quality monitoring programs.

V. **Domain: Organizational Resources**

A. **Subdomain: Human Resources**
   1. Apply the fundamentals of team leadership.
   2. Participate in and work in teams and committees.
   3. Conduct orientation and training programs.
   4. Monitor and report staffing levels and productivity standards for health information functions.
   5. Use tools and techniques to monitor, report, and improve processes.
   6. Comply with local, state, and federal labor regulations.

B. **Subdomain: Financial and Resource Management**
   1. Make recommendations for items to include in budgets and contracts.
   2. Monitor and order supplies needed for work processes.
   4. Recommend cost-saving and efficient means of achieving work processes and goals.
   5. Contribute to work plans, policies, procedures, and resource requisitions in relation to job functions.
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Working Conditions
Medical records and health information technologists work in an office environment. This is one of the few health occupations in which there is little or no physical contact with patients. Because accuracy is essential, technicians must pay close attention to detail. Technologists who work at computer monitors for prolonged periods must guard against eyestrain and muscle pain.

Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement
Medical records and health information technologists entering the field usually have an Associate Degree from a community or junior college. In addition to general education, coursework includes medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, legal aspects of health information, coding and abstraction of data, statistics, database management, quality improvement methods and computer training.

Hospitals sometimes advance promising health information clerks to jobs as medical records and health information technologists. Advancement usually requires 2 to 4 years of job experience and completion of a hospital's in-house training program.

Pre-college Preparation for High School Students
High School students interested in becoming a Health Information Technologist are advised to follow the recommended course of study for Medical Science and Health Careers offered at their school, focusing on biology, chemistry health and computer courses. High school students should consider enrolling in approved Dual Enrollment classes applicable to the HIT program thus accelerating the amount of time needed for training following graduating from high school. Visit your high school counselor or IRSC advisor for details on appropriate Dual Enrollment options. Students may also consider joining the Health Occupations Student of American (HOSA) program at their school.
**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**Technical Standards for Admission and Progression**

Health Information Technology involves processing and analyzing health records and is characterized by the application of knowledge in the skillful performance of certain functions. Therefore, in order to be considered for admissions or to be retained in the program after admission, all students must be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking/ Coping</td>
<td>Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. Ability to make fast decisions in stressful situations in a professional manner.</td>
<td>Identify cause-effect relationships in professional practice situations, and display good coping mechanisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.</td>
<td>Establish rapport with clients and colleagues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.</td>
<td>Report data using appropriate data presentation techniques, and effective oral and written communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.</td>
<td>Move around workspaces, file rooms and office areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Skills</td>
<td>Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to keyboard, file and code.</td>
<td>Use equipment, computers and encoders programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tactile</td>
<td>Tactile ability sufficient for processing health data.</td>
<td>Perform filing, coding and preparing reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.</td>
<td>Hear phones, alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help. Manage transcription reports accurately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Adapted from the Board of Directors of the Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing (SCCEN) guidelines for Nursing Education Programs.
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