

## What are HIM credentials?



To ensure that its members meet professional standards of excellence, the American Health Information Management (AHIMA) issues credentials in HIM.

AHIMA credentials are required and/or respected in the workplace. Members can earn credentials through a combination of education, experience, and performance of national certification exams.

The following two HIM credentials are awarded after successful completion of an AHIMA accredited HIM educational program and the national certification examination:

**RHIA:** Registered Health Information Administrator

**RHIT:** Registered Health Information Technician

Specialty HIM credentials are:

**CHP:** Certified in Healthcare Privacy

**CHS:** Certified in Healthcare Security

**CHPS:** Certified in Healthcare Privacy & Security

**CCS:** Certified Coding Specialist

**CCS-P:** Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based

**CCA :** Certified Coding Associate

For eligibility requirements and testing dates, visit AHIMA's web site at <http://www.ahima.org>

## Where are the accredited HIM Programs in California?

### Baccalaureate in Health Information Administration Pathway to "RHIA"

**Loma Linda University** [www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/health/](http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/health/)  
1905 Nichol Hall, Loma Linda, CA 92350  
Marilyn Davidian, MA, RHIA  
(909) 558-4976 [mdavidian@llu.edu](mailto:mdavidian@llu.edu)  
Coding Certificate available

### Associate Degree in Health Information Technology Pathway to "RHIT"

#### Chabot College

HIT Program currently in INACTIVE status

#### Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science

<http://www.cdrewu.edu>

1731 E. 120th St., Bldg. G, Los Angeles CA 90059  
Monica Thurston, MBA, RHIA  
(323)563-5888 [monicathurston@cdrewu.edu](mailto:monicathurston@cdrewu.edu)

#### City College of San Francisco John Adams Campus

<http://www.ccsf.edu>

1860 Hayes St., San Francisco CA 94117  
Marie Conde, MPA, RHIA, CCS  
(415)561-1818 [mconde@ccsf.edu](mailto:mconde@ccsf.edu)

#### Consumnes River College

<http://crc.losrios.edu/>

8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento CA 95823  
Program Director TBA  
(916)691-7452 [www.crc.losrios.edu](http://www.crc.losrios.edu)

#### Cypress College

<http://www.cypresscollege.edu>

9200 Valley View, Cypress CA 90630  
Rosalie Majid, RHIA  
(714)484-7289 [rmajid@cypresscollege.edu](mailto:rmajid@cypresscollege.edu)

#### DeVry University-Pomona Campus

[www.devry.edu](http://www.devry.edu)

901 Corporate Dr., Pomona CA 91768  
Shirley Lewis, MHA, RHIA, CPHQ  
(909)868-4023 [slewis@devry.edu](mailto:slewis@devry.edu)

#### East Los Angeles College

<http://www.elac.cc.ca.us>

1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park CA 91754  
Elizabeth Garcia, RHIT, CCS  
(323)265-8883 [garciaea@ELAC.edu](mailto:garciaea@ELAC.edu)

#### Fresno City College

<http://www.fresnocitycollege.edu>

1101 E University Ave., Fresno CA 93741  
Sarah Edwards, RHIA  
(559)244-2641 [sarah.edwards@fresnocitycollege.edu](mailto:sarah.edwards@fresnocitycollege.edu)

#### San Diego Mesa College

<http://intergate.sdmesa.sdccd.cc.ca.us>

7250 Mesa College Dr., San Diego CA 92111  
Teddy Scribner, MS, RHIA  
(619)388-2606 [tscribne@sdccd.edu](mailto:tscribne@sdccd.edu)

#### Santa Barbara City College

<http://www.sbccc.edu/hit>

721 Cliff Dr., Santa Barbara CA 93109  
Kathleen Peterson, RHIA, CCS  
(805)965-0581 x2851 [peterson@sbccc.edu](mailto:peterson@sbccc.edu)  
Distance Learning & Coder Certificate available

## Is a Career in Health Information Management for You?

- ◆ Are you interested in computer science, information technology, legal & legislative developments, or business administration?
- ◆ Would you like to be a part of the world of medicine, but not necessarily involved in direct patient care?
- ◆ Do you like diversity and change?
- ◆ Do you have an aptitude for organization and detail?
- ◆ Would you like to make a real contribution to the welfare of others?

If you answer "yes" to two or more of these questions, a career in Health Information Management (HIM) may be for you.



Quality  
Health  
Care  
through  
Quality

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## Why choose a career in Health Information Management?

HIM is a field where information technology, business management, and the health care industry merge creating challenging and rewarding opportunities. The health information management (HIM) field was established in 1928 to elevate the standards of clinical records to improve patient care. While this remains the central focus, skilled health HIM professionals are needed to serve in a broad range of roles throughout health care that involve planning, and managing the content, integrity, use, accessibility, and protection of health care information resources.

## What is Health Information Management?

Health Information Management is the body of knowledge and practice that assures the availability of health information to facilitate real-time health care delivery and critical health-related decision-making for multiple purposes across diverse organizations, settings, and disciplines.

## Core HIM functions include

- ◆ Managing records, data, and databases
- ◆ Protecting and securing confidential information
- ◆ Developing and managing data integrity systems and processes
- ◆ Ensuring compliance with information regulations and laws

## What do HIM Professionals do?

Health Information Management is a diverse profession with dozens of job titles, a myriad of work settings, functions, and roles. Whatever the setting, HIM professionals contribute to "managing the records of life." HIM professionals possess a core set of critical skills and competencies that allow them to adapt to multiple roles and work settings:

- ◆ Enterprise-wide data and information policy development and quality oversight
- ◆ Organizational privacy/security officer
- ◆ Documentation specialist responsible for monitoring accuracy and completeness of electronic and personal records and other clinical databases
- ◆ Organization-wide chief information officer
- ◆ Organization-wide coding and revenue and cycle management
- ◆ Data mining and analytics
- ◆ Information access and disclosure specialist, including release of information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

## Where do HIM Professionals work?

The profession offers career flexibility in a variety of workplace settings:

- ◆ Inpatient Acute Care Hospitals
- ◆ Long Term Care Facilities
- ◆ Rehabilitation Facilities
- ◆ Home Health & Hospice Agencies
- ◆ Ambulatory Medical Group & Physician Office
- ◆ Information Technology & Software Vendors
- ◆ Government Agencies
- ◆ Behavioral Health
- ◆ Law Firms
- ◆ Consulting
- ◆ Biomedical Research
- ◆ Pharmaceutical Firms
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Insurance Companies
- ◆ Correctional Facility



## What is the job market?

The U.S. Dept. of Labor projects a 49% growth in the number of HIM workers by 2012, making this occupation the sixth fastest growing occupation. <<http://www.bls.gov>> Approximately 7,000 new HIM workers are needed to fill new positions and replace those who retire or leave the field. Only 2,000 new graduates enter the HIM field each year. Research indicates industry advances toward the electronic health record will provide new roles for HIM professionals as key members of the

## How much do HIM Professionals earn?

In addition to strong job prospects, HIM offers competitive salaries. AHIMA <[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)> member survey data show that new HIM graduates with baccalaureate degrees start with salaries in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range. Those with associate degrees start at \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually. Five years out, many earn \$50,000 to \$75,000 annually. Salary is commensurate with education, job title, job setting, previous experience, and geographic location. Traditionally, wages in California are higher than other states.



## Who is CHIA?

The California Health Information Association is a nonprofit association that provides leadership, education, resources, and advocacy for the California health information management professionals. CHIA contributes to the delivery of quality patient care through excellence in health information management practice. CHIA is a Component State Association of the American Health Information Management Association. Contact the CHIA Executive Office, 1915 N. Fine Ave. #104, Fresno, CA 93227-1510; (559)251-5038 or <http://www.CaliforniaHIA.org>

CHIA  
California Health  
Information Association

