

The Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Associate in Science program emphasizes skills in health data collection, quality, monitoring, and adhering to legal and regulatory standards.

These technicians serve as medical coders, clinical data specialists, data quality managers, and information security officers. They hold supervisor, manager, and director positions in health care settings across the continuum of the health care industry.

Courses include design and implementation of systems for the collection of complete and accurate health records on each patient and the processing, storage, retrieval, security and release of health information and statistics in a timely manner for appropriate uses.

Students are instructed in regulatory compliance, performance improvement, quality assurance, utilization review, risk management, and departmental management.

The program consists of 70 semester hours of general education and health information technology core courses.

The HIT program is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). Students are eligible to sit for the national certification credentialing exam to become Registered Health Information Technicians (RHIT) after completion of the program or during their last semester with approval from the director for early testing. The RHIT exam is a national certification offered through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Health Information Technology program is to improve the health care delivery system through education and training to make sure students are competent in the management of health information systems, healthcare reimbursement, clinical coding, and legal aspects of healthcare to provide service to the HIM industry. It provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to become self-directed learners who possess critical thinking skills, as well as problem-solving, communication, and interpersonal skills. The program is designed to prepare graduates to work as Registered Health Information Technicians and manage health-related information in a variety of settings.

For additional information, call: (904) 808-7465.

The Health Information Technology courses are offered via distance education (online). Students are required to participate in a 64 hour internship at a healthcare facility during their final semester in the program. The internship must be approved by the Health Information Technology Director and coordinated by the student. A student must earn a grade of "C" or above in all courses required in the program. **The program is a full-time program and students must follow the Health Information Technology program rotation.**

(Note that students who are only taking prerequisites for admission into the program and who are not pursuing other degree programs are not considered regular, admitted students and are therefore not eligible for either federal or state forms of financial aid).

Applicants may apply:
April 1 - May 15 for Fall enrollment

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Health Information Technology program is a limited access program. To apply for admission to the Health Information Technology program, a student must have completed all of the following:

1. Application to SJR State;
2. Application to the Health Information Technology program;
3. Achieved satisfactory scores on college placement tests or have completed all college preparatory courses;
4. Complete the seven prerequisite courses prior to the application period:

| | | | |
|----|-----|--------------|---|
| | ENC | 1101 | Composition I |
| ° | BSC | 2085 & 2085L | Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab |
| ° | BSC | 2086 & 2086L | Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab |
| ° | CGS | 1100 | Microcomputer Applications |
| | HSC | 1531 | Medical Terminology |
| * | | | General Education Mathematics |
| °+ | HIM | 2432 | Concepts of Disease |

* Refer to A.A. degree general education requirements.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (POST DEGREE WITH LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION)

To apply for admission to the Health Information Technology (post degree) a student must have completed all of the following:

1. Application to SJR State;
2. Application to the Health Information Technology (post degree);
3. Provide an official transcript with an earned degree and one of the following licensure/certifications: CCS, CCA, CCS-P, RHIT, RHIA;
4. New applicants will be considered after all current Health Information Technology seats are filled.

Applicants are considered on a space available basis. Priority will be given based on the date admission requirements have been completed.

STUDENT SELECTION

Student selection is objective and based on the following point system: **(MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS = 164)**

1. **92 POSSIBLE POINTS** – Completion of general education and Health Information Technology-related courses. Total of 23 credit hours are available for point consideration. The method of point calculation for this category is based on the following formula:
 Letter grade value X class credit hours = points assigned
 A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points
 Ex. Student achieves a letter grade of "C" in HSC 1000 (3 cr. hrs.)
 A "C" grade = 2 points X 3 cr. hr. class = 6 points
2. **15 POINTS AWARDED** – Residence in Clay, Putnam, or St. Johns counties, Florida (Not required)
3. **15 POINTS AWARDED** – Current licensure/credential in a medical profession
4. **20 POSSIBLE POINTS AWARDED** – 5 points will be awarded if applicant has a college-level certificate; 10 points will be awarded if applicant has an A.A./A.S. degree; 15 points will be awarded if applicant has a BA/BS degree; and 20 points will be awarded if applicant has a MA/MS degree
5. **16 POSSIBLE POINTS AWARDED** – 2 points will be awarded for each prerequisite course taken at St. Johns River State College
6. **6 POSSIBLE POINTS AWARDED** – Completion of HSC 1004 –Professions of Caring course. 6 points awarded for an "A" in the course, 4 points awarded for a "B" in the course, and 2 points will be awarded for a "C" in the course

POST ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Following acceptance into the Health Information Technology program, students must complete/attend the following:

1. All students are required to sign a consent and waiver to perform a criminal and professional background check and drug screen. Failure to provide consent will render the applicant ineligible for admission to the program. Admission to the program is conditional upon the results of the criminal and professional background check and drug screen. Additional random and scheduled drug screening may be required at any time during the program.
2. Have a physical examination verifying that the student is free of communicable diseases; exam must include TB screening; however, Hepatitis B vaccination and Flu shot are optional
3. All students are required to sign a confidentiality statement which is kept on file in the Health Information Technology department.
4. Attend a Health Information Technology student orientation on the specified date
5. Schedule and attend an interview with program faculty and/or director

Note: Failure to comply with these requirements may result in administrative withdrawal from the Health Information Technology program.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

| | | | |
|-----|-------|--|---|
| BSC | 2085 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I..... | 3 |
| BSC | 2085L | Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab | 1 |
| ENC | 1101 | Composition I..... | 3 |
| +* | — | General Education Mathematics..... | 3 |
| +* | — | General Education Humanities..... | 3 |
| * | — | General Education Social Science..... | 3 |

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RELATED COURSES

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|---|---|
| + | BSC | 2086 | Human Anatomy and Physiology II..... | 3 |
| + | BSC | 2086L | Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab | 1 |
| | CGS | 1100 | Microcomputer Applications Software..... | 3 |
| | HSC | 1000 | Introduction to Healthcare Delivery System | 3 |
| | HSC | 1531 | Medical Terminology..... | 3 |
| | HIM | 1000 | Introduction to Health Information Management | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2432 | Concepts of Disease | 3 |

DEGREE SPECIFIC COURSES

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|---|---|
| + | HIM | 1110 | Standard Healthcare Practices..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 1211C | Health Information Systems..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 1282C | Basic ICD Diagnostic Coding..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 1442 | Pharmacology for Health Professionals..... | 2 |
| + | HIM | 2012 | Health Care Law..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2214 | Healthcare Statistics & Research..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2255C | CPT Coding..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2512 | Supervision, Organization, and Management..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2723C | ICD Procedure Coding..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2729C | Advanced Coding and Healthcare Reimbursement..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2800 | Professional Practice Experience I..... | 3 |
| + | HIM | 2820 | Professional Practice Experience II..... | 3 |

REQUIRED TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

70

NOTE: Professional Practice Experience classes require travel and day/evening sessions.

+Prerequisite courses required. See course descriptions in catalog.

* Refer to A.A. degree general education requirements.

NOTE: Students who complete the following courses will be eligible to attain the Medical Information/Coder Certificate (4160): BSC 2085, BSC 2085L, BSC 2086, BSC 2086L, CGS 1100, HSC 1531, HIM 1000, HIM 2432, HIM 1282C, HIM 1442, HIM 2723C, HIM 2255C, HIM 2729C, HIM 2800.

Accreditation: The Health Information Technology associate degree program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

