



Professional/Technical Programs Computer Information Technology (541) 463-5458

HIT Workforce Training Starting Fall 2011

Health Information Technology Specialist

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Purpose Health information technology (HIT) allows comprehensive management of medical information and its secure exchange between health care consumers and providers. A health information technology professional is someone who is qualified to support the implementation and support of Electronic Health Records (EHRs), information exchange across health care providers and public health authorities, and the redesign of workflows within the health care settings to gain the quality and efficiency benefits of EHRs.

Is it for you?

Health information technology puts you in a growing industry where there's a strong career outlook for individuals with skills and knowledge to collect, analyze, monitor, maintain and report health data in accordance with established data quality principles, legal and information security standards, and professional best-practice guidelines.

The HIT specialist curriculum is designed for, but not limited to, incumbent workers who are currently employed in the healthcare or information technology fields and hold a college degree or have equivalent experience. The classes provide a basic knowledge of the skills required to implement electronic health records (EHRs) in the healthcare environment. The curriculum provides the student with the knowledge, skills and competencies that he/she does not already possess. For example, a person entering the program with a healthcare background would concentrate on obtaining IT skills and workflow redesign capabilities rather than on content knowledge related to healthcare, which they already have. Similarly, a person with an IT background but little or no healthcare background would concentrate on the healthcare content.

Students who are pursuing a different degree may also wish to enrich or add to their existing skill set by completing health information technology classes; however, HIT courses are not meant to take the place of other classes within a student's degree program.

Employment & Salary Expectations

Employment opportunities in Oregon for medical records and health information technicians is expected to grow much faster than the regional average, due to the growing number of medical tests ordered by doctors and the corresponding scrutiny by third-party payers, as well as impending government mandates for electronic health records.

For an idea of what salary expectations are in Oregon, a health information technology (HIT) salary is given as \$47,000 per year, according to data compiled from job postings across Oregon. For those health information technologists who have attained the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification by passing the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) national certification examination, a median annual salary for Oregon is \$50,000. For major cities in Oregon, an average annual salary in Portland is \$44,000; Salem, \$42,000; Eugene, \$48,000 and Gresham, \$45,000.

According to data from the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Labor Market Information System, there were 2,460 medical records and health information technicians in 2006 and by 2016, the number should grow to 3,190. This is a 30 percent increase, which is higher than the overall trend in the United States, which is 20 percent growth. (www.alliedhealthworld.com)

National The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) predicts that job opportunities for health IT professionals will increase by 20 percent through 2018.

Health Information Technology is a six month curriculum that begins September 26, 2011 and is limited to 40 students. Enrollment is by permission only.

Contact Larry Scott at 541-463-5458 or email scottL@lanecc.edu

Sample Course Offerings:

Medical Terminology (HO 100 - 3 credits) A programmed course covering medical terminology, derivation, pronunciation and meaning. May be offered through Distance Learning.

Concepts of Computing: Information Processing (CS120 - 4 credits)

This course surveys the fundamental concepts and principles of computer systems and information processing. It is intended as a first course for those interested in a general survey of the computer science and information technology field. Students will become conversant with a wide range of topics in the field, including the basics of computer hardware and software, operating systems, word processing, spreadsheets, database management, network and internet communications, security, and the impact of computers on individuals and society. May be offered through Distance Learning.

Introduction to Health Care and Public Health in the US (HI 101 - 4 credits)

This course surveys health care and public health organization and the delivery of health services in the U.S. Included in the survey are relevant organizations and their interrelationships, professional roles, legal and regulatory issues, payment systems, public health policies and the importance of health reform initiatives.

Working with Health IT Systems (HI 107 - 4 credits)

Students will learn to work with simulated Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems or real EHR systems with simulated data. As they play the role of practitioners using these systems, they will learn what is happening "under the hood." They will experience threats to security and appreciate the need for standards, high levels of usability, and sources of errors.

Installation and Maintenance of Health IT Systems (HI 208 - 4 credits)

Instruction in installation and maintenance of health IT systems, including testing prior to implementation, introduction to principles underlying system configuration, and hands-on experiences working with EHRs in computer labs.

Networking and Health Information Exchange (HI 209 - 3 credits)

In-depth analysis of data mobility including the hardware infrastructure (wires, wireless, and devices supporting them), the ISO stack, standards, Internet protocols, federations and grids, the NHIN and other nationwide approaches.

Selecting, Implementing, and Customizing Electronic Health Records Systems (HI 111 Introduction - 4 credits)

Through this course the student will learn basic methods for assessing, selecting, and implementing an Electronic Health Record system that satisfies ONC/CMS meaningful use criteria in a health care setting. Students will also work in a simulated EHR environment and develop skills at customizing an EHR to meet the information needs and practices of various users in clinical settings.

Comparative Electronic Health Records Systems (HI 214 - 3 credits)

A comparative analysis of the most popular Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems highlighting the features of each as they would relate to practical deployment in specific health care settings.

"The Health Information Technology training is delivered as a unique hybrid curriculum to accommodate work schedules. Much of the course work is completed on-line with a full day of classroom and hands-on laboratory work on Saturdays."

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