

Health Information Technicians*

(AAS Non-Transfer Degree)

Health Science Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

A Registered Health Information Technician's (RHIT) responsibilities include preparing, compiling, processing, analyzing, evaluating, coding, storing, and retrieving information consistent with the medical, administrative, legal, accreditation, and regulatory requirements of a healthcare organization. Management and supervision of personnel and systems may also be required of the RHIT. The RHIT's job includes continuous computer data entry as well as filing, retrieving and transporting patient paper records for validation purposes.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Registered health information technicians (RHIT's) usually work a 40-hour work week. Some overtime may be required. In hospitals where this department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, technicians may work day, evening and night shifts. RHIT's work in pleasant and comfortable offices. This is one of the few health occupations in which there is little or no contact with patients. The health information field is moving more towards electronic health records (EHR's). This means that certified RHIT's may have the opportunity to work from home in the future.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Technicians entering the field usually have an Associate's degree from a community or junior college. Along with general education course work, the HIT program requires courses in medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, legal aspects of health information, coding and abstraction data, statistics, database management, quality improvement methods, and computer science. The program includes theoretical instruction and practical laboratory experience as well as professional practice in area healthcare settings. A program graduate is eligible to take the certification exam for the credentialed RHIT. This exam is offered through the American Health Information Management Association.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment is available in all types of healthcare facilities and organizations. RHIT's are particularly in demand for medical coding, tumor registry, and specialized technical functions. Due to rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by third-party payers, regulators, courts and consumers, employment is expected to grow much faster than the average healthcare position through 2012.

CAREER OPTIONS

Health Information Technician, Registered Health Information Technician

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

RHIT Credential—\$41,572; CPC-HS Credential—\$34,794; No Credential—\$26,795

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Medical Coder/Biller, Certified Cancer Registrar, Certification in Electronic Health Records, and Certification in Healthcare Privacy

SJC Basic Program Information

- The HIT Program is a limited access program. Students must submit an application to the HIT Program Office before being advised and registering for classes in the department.
- A student must earn a grade of "C" or higher in order to receive a degree or certificate.
- Classes are entirely on-line, so students must log onto WebCT on a daily basis in order to keep up with coursework and continue success in HITP courses.



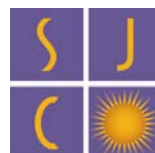
For further information go to:

www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm

www.ahima.org/careers/intro.html



*This information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2005-2006 and from the SJC HIT Program Director

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