



# HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

### Program Description:

The Health Information Management bachelor's degree program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM\*). Graduates of the program are eligible to take the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA)\*\* certification examination for the designation of Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA).

The major in health information management is designed to prepare the graduate HIM professional with skills and competencies in health data management, data analytics and informatics, information governance, privacy and security, compliance, clinical documentation improvement, revenue cycle management, medical coding, health information technology management, and administrative and clinical workflow. Students will focus on operations management essential to ensuring an accurate and complete medical record and cost-effective information processing.

A student's application to the baccalaureate degree program will be considered following:

- Admission to WKU
- Earning a grade of C or higher in the introductory course, HIM 100 (or equivalent course or departmental exam)
- Submitting a criminal background report
- Earning an overall GPA of 2.0

Prior to participating in any professional practice experience (PPE) students are required to provide a recent criminal background report, current immunization records, results of a current drug screen, and professional practice liability insurance. The professional practice sites can deny a student professional practice placement based on the site requirements, including OIG exclusion. Failure to be placed for professional practice experience may result in the student's inability to graduate from the program. At selected healthcare institutions, there may be additional certifications, training seminars, or other requirements that a student must meet to be eligible for training at the chosen facility. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all institutional requirements are met prior to the participation in the PPE. Students are responsible in part or in full for any costs incurred to meet such requirements. Policies, standards, and requirements should be obtained directly from the program office or at <http://www.wku.edu/healthinformationmanagement>.

For more information on job opportunities in the HIM profession go to <https://my.ahima.org/career-mapping/career-map/>.

### Required Program Courses

HIM 100-Health Data Content & Structure (4)

HIM 225-Legal Issues in HIM (2)

HIM 230-Computer Systems & Applications  
in HIM (3)

HIM 252-Healthcare Payment Systems (3)

HIM 290-Medical Terminology (2)

HIM 291-Advanced Medical Terminology (2)

HIM 292-Pharmacology & Lab Diagnostics (2)

HIM 330-Electronic Health Records (3)

HIM 350-Health Informatics Research (3)<sup>2</sup>

HIM 353-Management of Clinical Classification Systems (3)

HIM 421-Health Information Leadership &  
Mgmt. (3)

HIM 422-Clinical Quality Assessment &  
Performance Improvement (3)

HIM 430-Health Data Management & Analytics (3)

HIM 450-Application & Analysis of HIM Theory (3)

HIM 495-Capstone Professional Practice  
Experience (3-6)

PH 383-Biostatistics in Health Sciences OR

MATH 183 Introductory Statistics

OR SOCL 300 Social Statistics (3)

BDAN 305 Data Modeling and Analysis (3)

BDAN 250 Introduction to Analytics (3)

BIOL 131- Human Anatomy & Physiology (4)

Choose from the following required courses (6 hours)

BDAN 310- Business Data Analytics (3)

BDAN 320- Web Analytics (3)

BDAN 330- Structured Data Analysis (3)

BDAN 350- Data Management (3)

BDAN 410- Decision Support Systems Analysis and Design (3)

BDAN 420- Predictive Modeling (3)

BDAN 430- Data Visualization and Digital Dashboards (3)

BDAN 440- Special topics- Analytics & Information Systems (3)

DATA 301- Big Data with ITS Applications (3)

CIS 320- Personal Information Technologies with Artificial Intelligence (3)

CIS 321- Emerging Technologies with Artificial Intelligence (3)

**PROGRAM TOTAL HOURS: 61-64**

**General Education Hours: 39 (must show proficiency in world language)**

**TOTAL 100-103 + (21-24 general electives) = 121-124 total hours** (All B.S. graduating students must have 120 credit hours to graduate: NOTE: BIOL 131 counts in both Colonnade and Program. )

<sup>1</sup>Note requirements listed in WKU Colonnade Program; refer to <http://www.wku.edu/colonnade/> for more information.

<sup>2</sup>PH 383 or equivalent must be taken before HIM 350, 422, 450.

**Job Opportunities:** Job opportunities exist in multiple settings throughout the healthcare industry. These organizations include hospitals, multispecialty clinics and physician practices, long-term care, mental health, and other ambulatory care settings. The profession has seen significant expansion in nonpatient care settings, with careers in managed care and insurance companies, software vendors, consulting services, government agencies, education, and pharmaceutical companies.

**Job Growth and Income:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the median annual wage for medical and health services managers was \$110,680 in May 2023. Earnings vary by type and size of the facility and level of responsibility. Employment in the field is projected to grow 28% from 2022 to 2032. Other occupations appropriate to this major include health information technologists and medical registrars with a median pay of \$62,990 annually (2024). Medical record specialists have a median pay of \$48,780 per year (2024).

**Accreditation:** The HIM baccalaureate degree program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). \* Graduates are eligible to take the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) examination.

**Program Admission:**

1. The applicant must be officially accepted to Western Kentucky University and complete HIM 100 before his/her program application can be considered. Admission to the college or university does not guarantee admission to the program. Applicants are considered on a competitive basis. There are no restrictions regarding age, sex, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.
2. Apply to the Program of Health Information Management by December 1 for admission to the spring semester and by May 1 for admission for the fall semester; late admission may be considered.
3. To be admitted, the applicant must complete HIM 100 (or equivalent) with a grade of C or higher, apply to the program, submit a criminal background report, and have an overall GPA of 2.0.
4. HIT/HIM courses from a CAHIIM-accredited degree will be substituted as equivalency transfer credit for lower division courses.
5. Many HIT/HIM courses from non-CAHIIM accredited associate degree programs are automatically accepted into HIM. Otherwise, courses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for transfer equivalency. Students may also receive WKU credit for successfully passing (70%) the corresponding WKU course departmental exam.
6. All HIM courses must be completed with a "C" or higher.

Please contact the department office at 270-745-3548 for further information or visit <http://wku.edu/healthinformationmanagement>

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