

Where the Future Clicks:



Your
Health Information
Management Career

AHIMA
AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

It's About Where You're Going



You're thinking about your future. Sitting around and waiting for things to happen is not your style. If something is happening, you want to be a part of it.

High tech? Computers? Information?
They are your thing.
The healthcare field?
High on your list of possible careers.
Lots of action?
It's a must for you.

Then why not combine healthcare and technology?
Why not go for a health information management
career? It just may be the thing that clicks for you...



The health information management (HIM) field places you right where healthcare meets the cutting edge of technology.

As a professional health information manager, you play a big role in making our healthcare system work. You perform the data collection and analysis that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals need to do their jobs well. You are a key part of quality patient care.



Your Career on the Techno-edge

Your job title? It depends on your education and experience. Here are a few popular ones:

With a Bachelor's Degree

- HIM Department Director
- HIM System Manager
- Data Quality Manager
- Information Security Officer
- HIM College Instructor
- Consultant

With an Associate's Degree

- Health Data Analyst
- Insurance Claims Analyst
- Records Technician
- Clinical Coding Specialist
- Physician Practice Manager
- Patient Information Coordinator



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Lots of choices—right from the very beginning. That's what you have as an HIM professional. And you're right in the middle of the action— whether you work in a hospital, clinic, medical group practice...or for an insurance company, nursing home, pharmaceutical company, or law firm.

Healthcare + Technology = Success for You



And your long-term prospects look great, too. Health information technology is one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the United States—and it's expected to keep up the pace through the year 2006.

Now, let's talk money.

More good news! More than half of new HIM grads with a bachelor's degree start with salaries in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range. By five years out many are pulling down salaries in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range.

Going for an associate's degree? Most new grads at this level jump right in and earn \$20,000 to \$30,000. And these are just averages—based on your initiative, you can earn more.

Add it all up and you're off to a promising professional future when you enter the HIM field. Remember, the more our healthcare system changes, the more diverse roles HIM professionals will play—and the more choices you will have. Chances are, you'll find something that clicks for you.

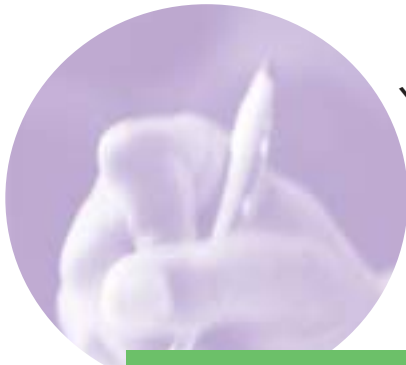
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How do you shape your HIM career? It boils down to this:
(1) You need formal training from an accredited HIM program at the college level, culminating in either an associate's or a bachelor's degree. **(2)** You pass a special certification examination and earn a credential that tells the world you are a competent HIM professional.

There are two key credentials for professionals in the HIM field:

- ✓ Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA).* Requires a bachelor's degree. Frequently leads to a management-level position requiring plenty of interaction with colleagues on the medical, financial, and administrative staff.
- ✓ Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).** Requires an associate's degree. RHITs often get jobs analyzing data, reporting patient information, and working on reimbursement.

Additional HIM credentials are the Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) and Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P). These are skill-based credentials typically earned after several years of experience.

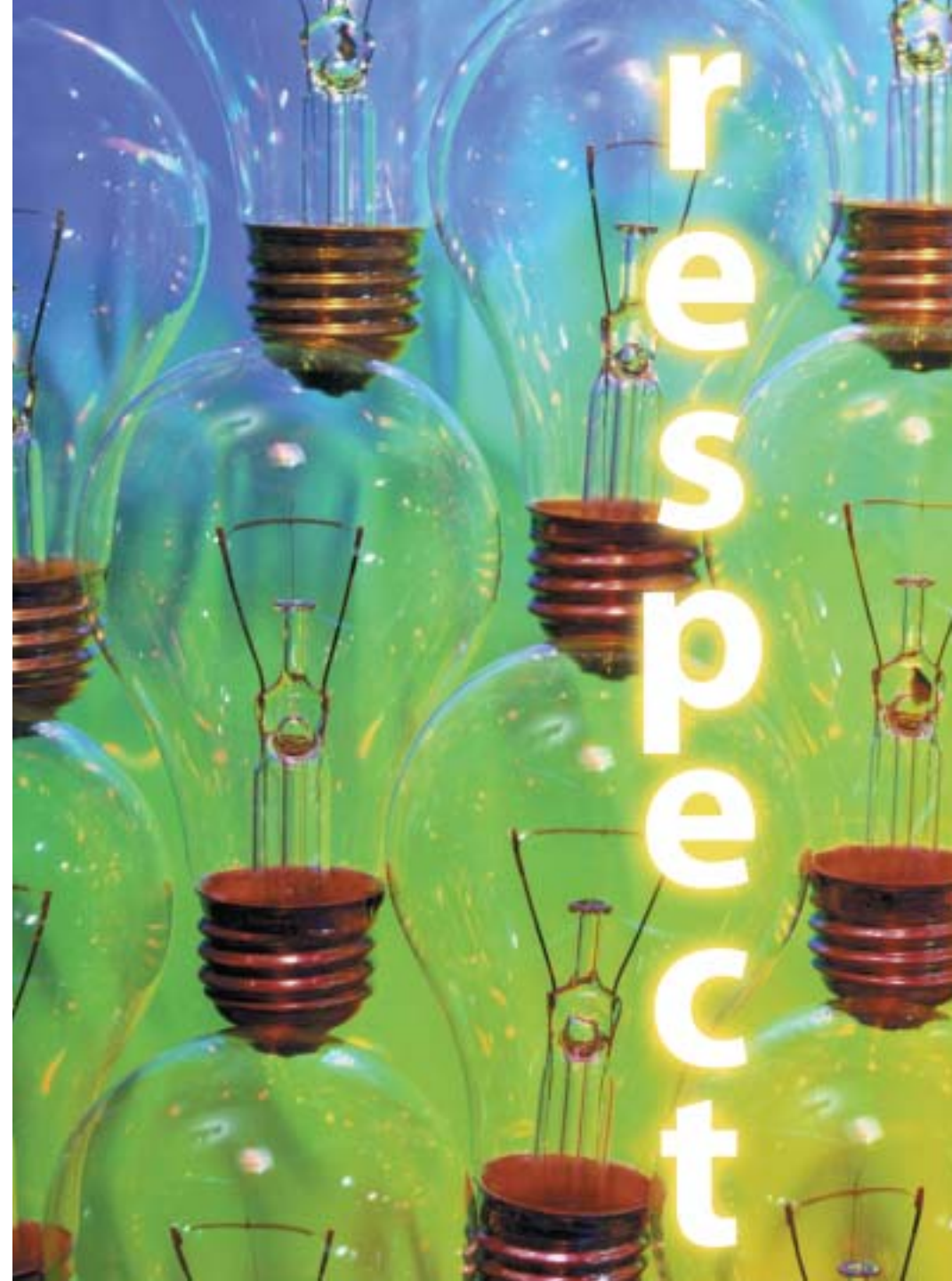


When you complete your education and earn your certification, you've shown that you have what it takes to have a rewarding professional career.

Make Yourself Valuable

*Formerly Registered Record Administrator (RRA)

**Formerly Accredited Record Technician (ART)



Ready to join tomorrow's healthcare team? Want to be a part of tomorrow's information management team? With an HIM career, you can click into both.

Rev Up

Get more information about the HIM field from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). AHIMA is the professional association for nearly 40,000 HIM professionals—and students—nationwide, and it's your one-stop source for all the information you need to get started on an HIM career.

Click on to the AHIMA Web site at www.ahima.org or call (312) 233-1100. You'll find information about the latest in the field, careers, accredited educational programs, credentials, and the location of the chapter nearest you.



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Go for It

Thinking about an HIM career? Get started with this handy career planning checklist.

Research

- ✓ Learn more about HIM careers from the AHIMA Web site or by requesting information from AHIMA.
- ✓ Get firsthand viewpoints on HIM careers. Call your local hospital or clinic and ask to speak with someone in the health information or medical records department.
- ✓ Check out the over 200 accredited HIM programs at colleges or universities across the nation. You can get a list from the AHIMA Web site.

Planning

- ✓ Discuss your interest in an HIM career with your guidance counselor.
- ✓ Ask for help in identifying appropriate colleges.
- ✓ Meet with a college representative to figure out what classes you should take to increase your chances of admission to an accredited HIM program. Make sure you have strong science, math, and computer training in your coursework.

Financing

- ✓ For information about scholarships and loans for qualified HIM students, contact AHIMA.
- ✓ For information about federal grants and low-interest loan programs, contact the Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.
- ✓ Check out the financial aid policies at the college or university you are considering.

Resources

- ✓ AHIMA Web site: www.ahima.org
- ✓ AHIMA phone: (312) 233-1100

