

AHIMA: MAPPING OUT THE STANDARD FOR HIM CERTIFICATION SINCE 1933

AHIMA is nationally recognized as the most respected coding and HIM credentialing agency. Their certification provides validation of professional competency to employers, and delivers increased professional respect, better positions, and even higher salaries for HIM professionals.

AHIMA-Supported Certification

We'll guide you every step of the way.

Information and Candidate Guide

The Candidate Guide features details about applying, scheduling, and preparing for the examination, as well as next steps after the examination. To order or download one, please contact us at:

Web: www.ahima.org/certification

E-mail: info@ahima.org

Phone: (800) 335-5535

Certification Examination

Preparatory Arena

Available at www.ahima.org/certification, the Arena provides guidance in examination specifications including competencies, content, sample questions, study resources, and the scoring process.

The AHIMA Commission on Certification

Under the direction of the AHIMA Board of Directors, the Commission on Certification ensures quality control and compliance with the Association's certification programs. The Commission oversees development and administration of all certification programs, considers policy matters, develops long-range strategies, and recommends action to AHIMA's Board of Directors on specific competency assessment issues.



COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION



American Health Information Management Association®

233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.
Chicago, IL 60601-5809

Source Code: MX2383

CHART YOUR
CAREER IN
HEALTHCARE

CHART YOUR CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK WITH AHIMA CERTIFICATION



AHIMA
www.ahima.org

PRSKT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
PERMIT NO. 4086

Whether you're just starting the journey or well on the path of a successful health information management (HIM) professional career, AHIMA certification in HIM, coding, healthcare privacy and security, or health data analysis is your guide to career enhancement, increased salary, and greater success in your chosen profession. AHIMA credentials are earned through a challenging program of examinations, education, and experience, and maintained through continuous review and education. This is why AHIMA certification has industry-wide respect as the gold standard of HIM professional excellence.

EMPLOYERS VALUE CREDENTIALS

A recent AHIMA survey showed that employers in the healthcare field place high value on certification. In hiring, 68 percent of employers report choosing a credentialed candidate over one who is not, and 53 percent consider credentials when promoting employees over equally skilled and experienced workers. Credentialed employees are rewarded financially too, with 67 percent of respondents reporting they earn more than their noncredentialed peers.

Source: <http://www.ahima.org/hitweek/EmployeeValuesurvey.pdf> (2005)

WHICH CREDENTIALS WILL HELP YOU BLAZE A TRAIL?

Choosing the right credential might seem difficult, but once you consider your background and career demands, selecting one is easy.

THE FIRST STEP FOR A CAREER IN CODING

Certified Coding Associate (CCA)

The CCA is an entry-level credential that distinguishes coders by exhibiting a level of commitment and professional capability usually absent in a newcomer. New graduates with a CCA acquire immediate status in the job market, and set themselves up for future certifications.

Required:

- US high school diploma or equivalent

Recommended:

- Six months of coding experience in a healthcare setting, or completion of an AHIMA-approved coding course

EXPLORE FURTHER CODING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P)

Maximize career opportunities and job satisfaction through CCS and CCS-P certification. These credentials recognize the capability to effectively perform a variety of coding functions. Skills are demonstrated in classifying medical data from patient records, including mastery level competencies.

Required for CCS and CCS-P:

- US high school diploma or equivalent

Recommended for CCS:

- At least three years of coding experience in a hospital setting
- Excellent skills in hospital system coding

Recommended for CCS-P:

- Superior skills in physician office coding
- At least three years of coding experience

FIND YOUR PLACE ANYWHERE IN HEALTHCARE

Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)

Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)

RHIA- and RHIT-certified professionals lead in compliance, privacy, data quality, security, and decision support. Demand for professionals with these certifications is increasing as technology applications in healthcare continue to evolve.

Recommended for RHIA

- Completion of a CAHIIM*-accredited baccalaureate HIM program either in the US or a program approved by a foreign association with which there is an agreement of reciprocity

Recommended for RHIT

- Associate's degree from a CAHIIM-accredited HIM program or a program approved by a foreign association with which an agreement of reciprocity exists

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS IN PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Certification in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)

AHIMA is pleased to offer the only combined privacy and security credential available in the healthcare industry. The CHPS is an elite credential (often there's only one CHPS holder in a hospital system), expanding professional opportunities for anyone dealing with health records—including attorneys, accountants, insurers, privacy officers, and related healthcare professionals—by broadening their capabilities in key areas. Certification ensures advanced competency in designing, implementing, and administering comprehensive privacy protection programs. Be on the leading edge of privacy and security trends, and maximize the opportunity to achieve your career goals.

Required:

- Baccalaureate degree and at least four years of experience in healthcare management

OR

- Master's or related degree (JD, MD, PhD) and at least two years of healthcare management experience

OR

- An RHIA or RHIT with a baccalaureate or higher degree and at least two years of experience in healthcare management

NEW! CERTIFIED HEALTH DATA ANALYST (CHDA)

The HIM industry is growing more and more data dependent and data driven. The CHDA, instituted by the AHIMA House of Delegates on October 12, 2008, will mark individuals as experts in health data analysis. CHDA-certified professionals will possess the knowledge to acquire, manage, analyze, interpret, and transform healthcare data into accurate, consistent, and timely information—balancing the “big picture” with everyday details. CHDA-certified professionals will exhibit broad organizational knowledge and the ability to communicate with individuals and groups at multiple levels, both internally and externally.

Required:

- Baccalaureate degree and at least five years of health data analysis experience

OR

- An RHIA with at least one year of health data analysis experience

*CAHIIM is an independent accrediting organization for degree-granting programs in health informatics and health information management. Go to www.cahiim.org for a directory of accredited programs.