

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What does an HIT professional do?

An HIT professional is trained to work in all aspects of health information management. You will learn the computer skills to move into the electronic health information era. The program also includes knowing all the laws and regulations that apply to the release and management of health information. You learn procedures for health record processing, detailed medical coding with ICD-10-CM/PCS and CPT, reimbursement and compliance issues, management of health information, and quality assurance,

Where can I work with this degree?

Job opportunities exist in hospitals, ambulatory care, long-term care, cancer registries, managed care, and physician practices, as well as non-traditional areas in consulting, legal offices, industry vendors, insurance companies and pharmaceutical firms. Anywhere health information is used can become a job opportunity for the credentialed HIT profession.

What can I expect to earn?

The average health information technology salary in California is \$56,000. However, salaries can vary somewhat by location. Technology-friendly Silicon Valley cities tend to offer higher salaries, with average salaries of \$65,000 in San Francisco and San Jose, while the average salary in Los Angeles is \$55,000.

How is the job market?

Excellent. The health information profession is consistently named in the top 10 professions for this decade.

Are there any classes I can take before I start the program?

HSC 201: Medical Terminology and CIM 112: Microsoft Office are essential prerequisites and a good starting point. It is also recommended that students take as many general education classes as possible before starting the program.

What is the EPC code for Saddleback Community College for my student membership with AHIMA?

The EPC Code is #813

Is there a clinical experience to the program?

Yes, during the last semester of the program. In HIT 219: Directed Practice, students gain first-hand experience working in the health care environment.

How can I find out more about the health information profession?

The national organization for HIT professionals is the American Health Information Management Association. Visit their website at <http://www.ahima.org>

If I know medical terminology do I have to take HSC 201?

An excellent command of the medical language is vital to success in the HIT program. Medical terminology courses must not be more than two years old at the time the first course is begun.

How much time will I have to devote to the classes?

It is estimated that the student will need from 2-3 hours per class per credit hour per week outside of class time for studying. Some students require more others less. It is important that you plan class, study, family, work, travel, and social time carefully to balance conflicting responsibilities during your educational career.