

Campus: Online

Program Overview

A degree in Health Information Technology (HIT) gives graduates the ability to work in healthcare with a focus on managing health information rather than on direct patient interaction. With this degree you will gain competency in medical coding, ensuring the integrity of health information, analyzing data, adhering to legal and regulatory standards, leading a team and quality management. You'll master this content through simulated learning activities and with the use of academic software applications (electronic health records, encoders, etc.).

Special Features

- All courses will be offered online
- The program may be completed in a full-time or part-time format
- Students participate in a supervised clinical experience (fourth semester).

Admission Requirements

- Complete Online application form
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide both a current high school transcript and a final (official) transcript with confer date
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Review and sign Functional Abilities Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech counselor (academic admission requirements apply - see page 33 for more information)

Program-Specific Requirements

- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable National Criminal Background Check and state-specific caregiver background check for where the HIT clinical experience will be completed
- Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb)
- COVID vaccination---highly recommended

NOTE: Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement or ability to progress in the program if a student is not able to meet the clinical site requirements including but not limited to; influenza vaccine, covid vaccine, negative tb skin test or QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) or T-SPOT®. TB test (T-Spot), up to date acceptable background check, or any other clinical requirements required by the clinical site. Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement if the clinical site must be changed due to students inability to meet the site specific requirements. Many sites require the student information 4-6 weeks prior to the clinical start date.

- Review and sign Health Sciences Confidentiality Statement
- Review and complete the computer skills inventory
- Review Health Information Technology program orientation materials
- Meet with Health Information Technology program advisor to determine program sequencing and completion goals

Program Outcomes

Health Information Technology graduates will be able to:

- Apply data governance principles to ensure the quality of health data
- Apply coding and reimbursement systems
- Model professional behaviors and ethics
- Apply informatics and analytics in data use
- Apply organizational management techniques

Career Outlook

Typical positions available after graduation include:

- Health Information Technician
- HIM Supervisor
- Insurance/Business Specialist

Career Pathway

The Health Information Technology program includes the following pathway option (page 232):

- Medical Coding Specialist

The Health Information Management accreditor of Northwood Technical College is the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The College's accreditation for the Health Information Technology degree in Health Information Management has been reaffirmed through 2024-2025.

All inquires about the program's accreditation status should be directed by mail to CAHIIM, 200 East Randolph Street, Suite 5100, Chicago, IL, 60601; by phone at 312.235.3255; or by email at info@cahiim.org.

Required Courses

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
Program Courses		
10501101	Medical Terminology	3 cr.
10501107	Digital Literacy for Healthcare	2 cr.
10530159	Healthcare Revenue Management*	3 cr.
10530161	Health Quality Management*	3 cr.
10530162	Foundations of HIM*	3 cr.
10530163	Healthcare Stats and Analytics*	3 cr.
10530164	Intro to Healthcare Informatics*	3 cr.
10530165	Intermediate Coding*	3 cr.
10530166	HIT Capstone*	1 cr.
10530167	Management of HIM Resources*	3 cr.
10530178	Healthcare Law & Ethics*	2 cr.
10530182	Human Disease for the Health Professions*	3 cr.
10530184	CPT Coding *	3 cr.
10530196	Professional Practice*	3 cr.
10530197	ICD Diagnosis Coding*	3 cr.
10530199	ICD Procedure Coding*	2 cr.
Program Courses Total		43 cr.

General Education Courses**

10801136	English Composition 1	3 cr.
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication or	
10801198	Speech	3 cr.
10804189	Introductory Statistics*	3 cr.
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology	4 cr.
10809172	Introduction to Diversity Studies	3 cr.
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr.
General Education Courses Total		19 cr.

TOTAL CREDITS 62 cr.

* Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

** See pages 38-41 for course descriptions.

You must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course repeat policies exist that allow for only a certain number of retakes within this program; please refer to the policies for details



Course Descriptions

(See pages 38-41 for General Education course descriptions)

10501101

Medical Terminology - Credits: 3

Focuses on the component parts of medical terms: prefixes, suffixes and word roots. Students practice formation, analysis and reconstruction of terms. Emphasis on spelling, definition and pronunciation. Introduction to operative, diagnostic, therapeutic and symptomatic terminology of all body systems, as well as systemic and surgical terminology.

10501107

Digital Literacy for Healthcare - Credits: 2

The focus of this course is the use of technology in healthcare. Learners use common business software applications, including word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and databases. Communication methods using technology are addressed. Learners gain experience with using the electronic health record (EHR). Healthcare EHR security issues, social media use, and digital healthcare resources are examined.

10530159

Healthcare Revenue Management - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to compare and contrast health care payers and evaluate the reimbursement cycle and compliance with regulations. Learners assign payment classifications with entry level proficiency using computerized encoding and grouping software. COREQUISITES: 10530162 Foundations of HIM, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions, 10530184 CPT Coding, 10530197 ICD Diagnosis Coding, and 10530199 ICD Procedure Coding.

10530161

Health Quality Management - Credits: 3

Explores the programs and processes used to manage and improve healthcare quality. Addresses regulatory requirements as related to performance measurement, assessment, and improvement, required monitoring activities, risk management and patient safety, utilization management, and medical staff credentialing. Emphasizes the use of critical thinking and data analysis skills in the management and reporting of data. PREREQUISITE: 10530163 Healthcare Stats and Analytics.

10530162

Foundations of HIM - Credits: 3

Introduces learners to the healthcare delivery system, and the external forces that influence healthcare delivery. Sets an understanding for the expectations and standards related to professional ethics, confidentiality and security of health information. Differentiates the use and structure of healthcare data elements, data standards, and the relationships between them. Prepares learners to collect and maintain health data to ensure a complete and accurate health record. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITE: 10501107 Digital Literacy for Healthcare.

10530163

Healthcare Stats and Analytics - Credits: 3

Explores the management of medical data for statistical purposes focusing on descriptive and inferential statistics including definition, collection, calculation and compilation of numerical data. Examines data analytics, retrieval, presentation and research methodologies. PREREQUISITE: 10530162 Foundations of HIM and 10804189 Introductory Statistics.

10530164

Intro to Healthcare Informatics - Credits: 3

Emphasizes the role of information technology in healthcare through an investigation of the electronic health record (EHR), business, and health information software applications. Learners will develop skills to assist in enterprise information management and database architecture design and implementation. PREREQUISITES: 10530162 Foundations of HIM and 10501107 Digital Literacy for Healthcare.

10530165

Intermediate Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares students to assign ICD and CPT/HCPCS codes supported by medical documentation and official coding guidance to support appropriate reimbursement. Students will participate in CDI activities, including preparation of appropriate physician queries in accordance with compliance guidelines. PREREQUISITES: 10530184 CPT Coding and 10530197 ICD Diagnosis Coding and successful completion of COREQUISITE: 10530199 ICD Procedure Coding is required prior to taking Intermediate Coding.

10530166

HIT Capstone - Credits: 1

Explore technical skills and professional attributes desired for the HIM profession, and conduct activities to assess one's own readiness to enter the health information industry. COREQUISITE: 10530196 Professional Practice.

10530167

Management of HIM Resources - Credits: 3

Examines the principles of management to include planning, organizing, human resource management, directing, and controlling as related to the health information department. PREREQUISITE: 10530162 Foundations of HIM.

10530178

Healthcare Law & Ethics - Credits: 2

Examines regulations for the content, use, confidentiality, disclosure, and retention of health information. An overview of the legal system and ethical issues are addressed. PREREQUISITE: 10530162 Foundations of HIM.

10530182

Human Disease for the Health Professions - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to interpret clinical documentation that they will encounter in a variety of healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on understanding the common disorders and diseases of each body system to include the etiology (cause), signs and symptoms, diagnostic tests and results, and medical treatments and surgical procedures. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530184

CPT Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to assign CPT/HCPCS codes, supported by medical documentation, with entry level proficiency. Learners apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530196

Professional Practice - Credits: 3

Applies previously acquired skills and knowledge by means of clinical experiences in the technical procedures of health record systems and discussion of clinical situations. Student may participate in a supervised clinical experience in healthcare facilities. PREREQUISITE: 10530165 Intermediate Coding and COREQUISITES: 10530161 Health Quality Management, 10530167 Management of HIM Resources, and 10530166 HIT Capstone.

10530197

ICD Diagnosis Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares students to assign ICD diagnosis codes supported by medical documentation. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD diagnosis codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530199

ICD Procedure Coding - Credits: 2

Prepares students to assign ICD procedure codes supported by medical documentation with entry-level proficiency. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD procedure codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. PREREQUISITES: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist 10501101 Medical Terminology, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITE: 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions.