

Health Information Management (HIMA)

HIMA501 Technology Applications in Health Information Management (3 semester hours)

This is the first course required for students enrolled in the MS in Health Information Management degree program. This course addresses the theoretical and practical applications that information technology (IT) plays in the administration of health information. Students will study how the management and synthesis of healthcare data across a variety of levels within the healthcare system plays an integral role in strategic and tactical decision making. The course provides students with an overview of systems planning, grant and contract development, as well as e-health and electronic medical records. Students will gain a foundational knowledge of IT deployment, adoption, data security and interoperability, privacy, confidentiality, and information management planning. In addition, students will examine the legal and ethical aspects of health information management.

HIMA503 Healthcare Vocabulary and Clinical Terminologies (3 semester hours)

This course addresses the nomenclature of healthcare vocabulary and medical terminology for administrators in the health information management (HIM) field. Vocabulary used in the healthcare field provides a common language for practitioners, positively addressing global, as well as safety issues. Students will examine the issues of competing standards, and the different goals and criteria in which terminology and codes were created to address. The course will provide an advanced overview of medical terminology and anatomy used in classification systems in health information management (HIM). Students will study the structures and organization of bodily systems as they relate to the appropriate terminology.

HIMA505 Research Methods in Health Information Management (3 semester hours)

This course focuses on the research methods, tools, instruments, and devices used in health information management. It concentrates on the logic of the scientific method, research design, and qualitative and quantitative analysis. This course evaluates methods to collect, classify, categorize, evaluate, assess, and report research data, to formulate valid research questions, and to derive logical conclusions. In addition, the course emphasizes the proficient development of research and writing skills necessary in academic and professional settings. Lastly, students will utilize all of these methods to demonstrate competence in data collection and analysis, as well as strategic and tactical decision making. The principles, practices, tools, and methodologies presented in this course are applicable throughout the program of graduate studies.

HIMA550 Clinical Workflow and Process Redesign (3 semester hours)

This course addresses processes in the administration of health information management as they relate to performance, bottlenecks, delays, duplication of effort, and other issues in order to identify areas of improvement. Students will study process mapping and examine how auditing the information content can increase productivity via information technology and automation. Issues related to computerized provider order entries (CPOE) and electronic health records (EHR) will be analyzed associated with safety and quality. Students will examine the symbiotic nature of clinical workflow and process redesign.

HIMA600 Financial Management for Health Professionals (3 semester hours)

This course provides students with a foundation in financial management skills and principles applicable to the health care field. Students will examine the difference between accounting and financial management, different reimbursement methodologies, accounting and financial statements, revenue cycle management, and avenues for financing major capital investments. They will learn areas related to managing cash, billings, and collections, alternative forms of ownership, as well as using cost information in decision-making. Additionally, students will be exposed to the laws and regulations that affect health care financial reporting and performance such as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and the expansion of health care services into new fields.

HIMA605 Legal Issues in Health Information Management (3 semester hours)

This course will provide students with an overview of the legal issues that influence the management of health information. Students will examine areas related to the impact of electronic health records, ethical standards, bioethics, confidentiality, informed consent, and access to health related information. In addition, students will study legal issues related to risk, quality, and utilization management, as well as health care fraud and abuse, through various federal legislation such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

HIMA610 HealthCare Data Analytics with Lab (4 semester hours)

This course will prepare the students to collect, analyze and present the data through the understanding of basic concepts, principles, and techniques/methods of statistics as applied to knowledge management in health care. Major topics will include data collection, sharing, and analysis. Students will study the terminology, concepts, models, processes and tools associated with decision support and knowledge management systems. The lab portion of the course will focus on data, statistical and qualitative analysis, explanatory, and predictive modeling where students will evaluate how to leverage data into information and knowledge to enhance systems, quality, cost effectiveness and strategic decision making. (Prerequisite: HIMA600)

HIMA620 Corporate Compliance in the Healthcare Industry (3 semester hours)

This course will prepare students to navigate the area of corporate compliance within the health care industry by identifying risks and avoiding possible liability by examining a myriad of laws, regulations, policy guidance, enforcement initiatives, and certifications (e.g. HIPAA, Stark laws). The course will provide students with a foundation in the core elements of corporate compliance. Students will evaluate various tools and strategies necessary for an effective corporate compliance program to protect a health care organization and avoid penalties as a result of non-compliance.

HIMA699 Capstone in Health Information Management (3 semester hours)

Preparation for the Health Information Management Administration (HIMA) end of program seminar begins on day one of a student's graduate program of study. The theories, research methods, analytical skills, and substantive knowledge obtained through their master's curriculum provide the basis for a major research project. Students will work closely with the assigned faculty member to develop the subject matter of their project. Guidance on the format of the research proposal, Institutional Review Board (IRB), and formatting/technical questions can be found in the APUS End of Program manual. Capstone courses are NOT included in the university retake policy. All grades for any capstone attempts will appear on transcript and will be calculated in GPA. (Prerequisite: Students may only take this course after the completion of all CORE courses)