



AHIMA Supports Health Information Management Academic Programs

Here's What We Offer:

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is the premier association of health information management (HIM) professionals, is dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning.

AHIMA is a sponsor of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), the accrediting organization for degree-granting programs in health informatics and information management. CAHIIM establishes quality standards for the educational preparation of future HIM professionals.

As part of AHIMA's mission to advance the profession, AHIMA and its Foundation of Research and Education (FORE) offers a number of initiatives to support HIM academic programs, both developing and established. Here are some of the ways AHIMA and FORE will support HIM academic program development at your institution:

- **Model curricula**—AHIMA has developed a curriculum model that addresses the evolving professional knowledge and skills of each HIM academic level—master's, baccalaureate, and associate degree students. The model provides a benchmark for degree programs that is flexible and adaptable as it relates to academic program goals, student learning outcomes, and communities of interest.
- **Virtual lab**—AHIMA is developing a single-site, virtual access source of core HIM technologies that will allow HIM students to actually work with the technologies they will encounter in the electronic healthcare workplace. The lab will serve as a simulated electronic environment for practicing the competencies expected of entry-level HIM professionals.
- **Scholarships**—FORE offers merit scholarships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in health information management. In 2005, 91 scholarships were awarded to students in HIM academic programs. To learn more about FORE programs, go to www.ahima.org/fore.
- **Textbooks and reference publications**—AHIMA publishes standard textbooks for each academic level, available in print or in e-book format for online program delivery.
- **Assembly on Education**—Each summer AHIMA hosts the Assembly on Education summer symposium for HIM educators. The meeting includes a Faculty Development Institute, supported in part by FORE, for new educators, mentoring programs for new faculty, updates on curriculum changes, a research forum, and poster presentations.
- **Faculty stipends**—FORE faculty development stipends are intended to encourage excellence in effective teaching and leadership in areas related to electronic health information management (e-HIM®). Faculty members of accredited or approved HIM programs can apply for stipends to cover expenses associated with targeted professional development opportunities.

- Recruitment activities—AHIMA has online and printed resources for colleges to raise awareness of the HIM profession. Online brochures can be customized with college logo and contact information or ordered in quantity, as well as videos and other recruitment resources. Go to www.ahima.org/careers/recruit00.asp.
- Work force expertise—AHIMA and FORE have done groundbreaking research about the state of the HIM work force and cosponsored an industry summit in 2005 to develop recommendations to address work force challenges in healthcare. FORE has sponsored development of a forecast tool for colleges focused at the baccalaureate level or higher, to predict work force needs in their service areas. To learn more, go to www.ahima.org/fore/practice/workforce.asp.
- Corporate connections program—AHIMA has created a program to facilitate new opportunities for HIM students to transition from the classroom to the work force by connecting professional practice experiences or internships with major employers in the healthcare industry. Opportunities are posted online for program directors of AHIMA-approved and CAHIIM-accredited HIM programs. For more information, go to www.ahima.org/academics.
- *Perspectives in Health Information Management*—AHIMA's online, peer-reviewed research journal is an opportunity for faculty and student research publishing, enriching the body of HIM knowledge. *Perspectives in HIM* is available to the public online at www.ahima.org/perspectives and is indexed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature.
- FORE research grants—The Foundation funds research projects annually through its Grant-in-Aid and dissertation assistance programs, providing seed money for new research and dissertation support. FORE also supports collaboration with other external grant funding sources and academic institutions.
- FORE Triumph Awards—These annual awards provide national recognition for excellence in advancing HIM including categories for Educator, Research, and Rising Star (new professional).
- Member expertise—AHIMA offers a network of more than 50,000 members, including 52 component state associations, sharing the latest in HIM experience in online Communities of Practice, professional publications, an annual convention, and an online knowledge repository in AHIMA's FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge. In addition, AHIMA's policy and government relations staff represents the interests of the profession to members of Congress and regulatory bodies in Washington, DC.
- Resources for faculty—AHIMA provides support materials for initial program design online at www.ahima.org/academics. Candidacy application and resources are available online at www.cahiim.org. For AHIMA members, resources are available in the online Communities of Practice.

CAHIIM, as the accrediting organization for degree-granting programs in health informatics and information management demonstrates the following benefits of CAHIIM program accreditation:

- Supports job marketability and entry-level competency for graduates
- Creates goals for HIM program self-improvement and student learning outcomes
- Stimulates curriculum relevance for today's electronic healthcare environment
- Lists accredited programs on the online CAHIIM program directory
- Ensures consistent HIM program performance, based on established quality standards and outcomes
- Establishes eligibility for FORE scholarships and AHIMA professional certification

AHIMA hopes that you will consider adding a health information management program to your academic offerings. To assess your current offerings and or determine how an HIM curriculum can be developed at your institution, contact the AHIMA staff at (312) 233-1183 or e-mail claire.dixon-lee@ahima.org or patt.peterson@ahima.org.