

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Certificate of Completion

Health Information Technicians are counted among the many highly qualified health professionals necessary to meet the growing needs of the healthcare industry. One of the things that sets this field apart is that there is little or no direct contact with patients.

The following are a sampling of the duties health information technicians typically perform:

- Analyzing and evaluating health records that comply with health information standards and regulations;
- Coding symptoms, diseases, operations, procedures, and other therapies for maximum reimbursement;
- Ensuring that health information is complete and available to legitimate users while protecting patient privacy and maintaining information security; and
- Maintaining and utilizing a variety of health record indexes and storage and retrieval systems.

DACC offers a rigorous course of study to prepare graduates for employment as health information technicians. It includes medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, health data requirements and standards, classification and coding systems, healthcare reimbursement methods, healthcare statistics, computer literacy, professional practice skills, and life skills such as critical analytical thinking, problem solving, and good study habits.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have numerous options. Job prospects for HIT professionals are very good because their skills are necessary throughout the entire healthcare industry. Typical work settings are physician practices, hospitals, managed care organizations, long-term care facilities, behavioral health facilities, ambulatory care facilities, rehabilitation centers, home healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, consulting and law firms, skilled nursing facilities, and federal and state governmental agencies. Current salary ranges and the job outlook for this field can be found in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at the U.S. Department of Labor website: [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov) (<https://www.bls.gov>)

Graduates of the Health Information Technology program are eligible to apply to take several different certification examinations, which include those offered by the following professional organizations (among others):

- **American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)** – Certified Professional Coder (CPC), Certified Professional Coder–Hospital Based (CPC-H), and Certified Professional Coder–Payer (CCP-P)
- **American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)** – Certified Coding Associate (CCA), Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), and Certified Coding Specialist–Physician Based (CCS-P)

To graduate from the HIT program, students must complete an internship work-experience component. Because this work takes place in a health-care setting, the employer/site may require students to complete and pass a security background check. Past criminal violations could prevent

a student from completing the degree or from obtaining employment in the field.