Health Information Management

Fleming College

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Program Location:	Peterborough
Program Code:	HIM
Co-ordinator:	Patricia Hewes
Credential:	Ontario College Diploma
Start Date:	September 03, 2013
Tuition Fees:	$1,906.50 per semester. Tuition and fees subject to change.

The Fleming College Health Information Management (HIM) program is one of only three Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) recognized college programs available in Ontario.

Program Highlights

In this challenging two-year diploma program, students will learn to use computer technologies to capture and analyze data, and to create health information for healthcare delivery use, financial and management planning. Health records are the primary source of information used by hospitals and health care facilities to code services for reimbursement purposes. This information is also needed by public health officials to indicate disease patterns and trends, and by medical researchers for analysis, comparison and decision support.

Health service careers are among the fastest growing occupations in the economy. In the healthcare field, this really is the information age. There's a whole new growth market for the skills and training of health information management and health records professionals. An aging population and increasing health care needs, combined with the focus on accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of health care services delivery, has led to a skills shortage. You will graduate equipped with very marketable skills in the health information management sector. Some of those skills will include expertise in the following areas:

- data quality
- data collection and coding
- record /systems management
- privacy, confidentiality and security of health information
- transitioning to the electronic health record

This program has been granted formal recognition by the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA). Graduates will be eligible to write the Canadian College of Health Information Management's national certification examination, and upon successful completion, use the professional designation CHIM, meaning certified in Health Information Management.

Success Stories

"Now more than ever, a Health Information Management (HIM) career offers exciting and dynamic opportunities. Data Quality, Privacy and Electronic-Health Information Management (e-HIM) are our domains of practice. This diverse field offers positions to support the collection, analysis and management of health information; positions related to patient privacy and advocacy; and project management opportunities to assist in transitioning from a paper-based to electronic health record across all healthcare sectors."

MARIA MUIA, B.H.A., M.H.Sc., CHIM, C.H.E.
Director, Health Information Management, North York General Hospital

Why Choose Fleming

Fleming College has a reputation as a leader in technology-based learning. The HIM program at Fleming follows this trend with a vision of "Inspiring innovative students to become innovative leaders in HIM through applied learning." One of our mission statements is to "Espouse the state of the art in Health Information Management." We demonstrate this through our brand-new, fully-computerized lab with over 500 anonymized patient records and scanning equipment, to provide students with practical application knowledge that supports the move in healthcare to electronic health records (EHRs). A real-world populated database of patient information allows the learner to run realistic reports to support the needs of users for decision-making purposes.

Through its previous successful practicums, the HIM program has developed excellent relationships with numerous healthcare facilities throughout the region and beyond, resulting in good practicum and employment opportunities for graduates.

St. Joseph's at Fleming
St. Joseph's at Fleming is the first long-term care facility built on a college or university campus. Students from more than 20 programs, including HIM, participate in clinical field practice, applied research, and volunteer initiatives within or associated with the facility.

Work Experience

The program includes a strong practical component. Students will participate in two work placement experiences, a total of eight weeks in all. Students spend two weeks in a workplace setting in semester two, and four weeks in a workplace setting in semester four, with an additional two weeks planned in the on-site virtual HIM department. Practicum components will not necessarily be in the immediate Peterborough area. Practicum agencies may require proof of immunization and a criminal records check (vulnerable sector).

Is this You?

This challenging and rigorous program is for those who are interested in a career where healthcare meets the cutting edge of technology. The following attributes and skills are assets for this program and career path:

- ability/willingness to work as part of a team and independently
- self-motivated
- dedicated to lifelong learning
- organized, with excellent judgment
- analytical, detail-oriented
- customer support oriented
- minimum keyboarding speed of 30 words per minute

It is strongly recommended that students possess basic Microsoft Office Suite skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet Explorer) for research, report writing and presentations.

Career Opportunities

Graduates will be qualified for employment in a variety of health service settings and can choose the area that most interests them, including hospitals, chronic and long-term care facilities, community healthcare, mental health agencies, rehabilitation services, private clinics, health information networks, insurance and pharmaceutical industries, and government agencies and services. Your job titles could include:

- Health Record/Information Technician
- Coding Specialist
- Release of Information Specialist
- Health Record/Information Administrator
- Data Analyst
- Data Quality Specialist

Starting salaries per year are in the $40,000 to $45,000 range. The recently released "Health Informatics and Health Information Management Human Resources Report" confirms the increasing demand for qualified Health Informatics (HI) and Health Information Management professionals, and projects significant labour and skills shortages in this field in the near future. To view the report, go to: https://www.echima.ca/sector-study-report

Minimum Admission Requirements

OSSD with the majority of credits at the College (C) and Open (O) level, including:

- 2 College (C) English courses (Grade 11 or Grade 12)
- 2 Grade 11 or Grade 12 College (C) Science courses
- 1 Grade 11 College (C) Math course

When (C) is the minimum course level for admission, (U) or (U/C) courses are also accepted.

Mature Students

If you are 19 years of age or older before classes start, and you do not possess an OSSD, you can write the Canadian Adult Achievement Test to assess your eligibility for admission. Additional testing or academic upgrading may be necessary to meet specific course requirements for this program.

All applicants will be required to achieve course credit in the mandatory Sciences and, through Secondary School or through Academic Upgrading programs.

Immunization Requirements

This program has immunization requirements. For more information, and to print the required immunization form, please see the Immunization Information page.

Additional Costs

You should plan to spend approximately $1200.00 for books and software in your first year ($750.00 of this in first semester) and $650.00 for your second year. As well, in your role as a future HIM professional, you will be expected to join the national and provincial HIM organizations as a student member, a cost of approximately $60.00 (https://www.echima.ca/media/documents/CHIMA-Booklet-WEB.PDF)

Transfer Agreements

We are committed to providing students and graduates with flexible options to get maximum recognition of their college studies. Through joint programs and transfer agreements with the following universities, you can apply the learning you acquire at Fleming College to earn a related degree in less time, and at less cost.

- Athabasca University
- University of New Brunswick
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Curriculum for Health Information Management

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Hours
SCIE 2	Anatomy and Physiology I	60
COMP 177	Computer Skills and Applications	45
HLTH 155	Introduction to Health Information Management	30
HLTH 156	Professionalism in Health Care	30
COMM 79	College Communications for the Helping Professions	37
SCIE 105	Clinical Pathology for HIM I	60
HLTH 158	Medical Terminology I	30
ORGB 13	Developing Effective Teams	45

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Hours
FLPL 91	Health Information Management Practicum I	70
HLTH 68	Health Data Management and Use	45
HLTH 69	Coding and Classification Systems I	45
HLTH 157	Health Information Management Applications	30
HLTH 159	Medical Terminology II	30
SCIE 106	Clinical Pathology for HIM II	60
SCIE 3	Anatomy and Physiology II	60
GENED	General Education Elective	

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Hours
COMM 159	Communicating at Work for the Health Professions	45
COMP 178	Database Management	45
HLTH 70	Coding and Classification Systems II	45
HLTH 74	Management of Health Information Services	45
LAWS 120	Health Law	45
MATH 59	Health Statistics	45
GENED	General Education Elective	

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Hours
FLPL 92	Health Information Management Practicum II	140
FLPL 98	Health Information Management Foundations to Practicum	70
HLTH 71	Coding and Classification Systems III	48
HLTH 72	Comprehensive	15
HLTH 73	Applied Research and Epidemiology	45
HLTH 75	Utilization Management and Decision Support	60
SOCI 38	Issues in Diversity	45

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