

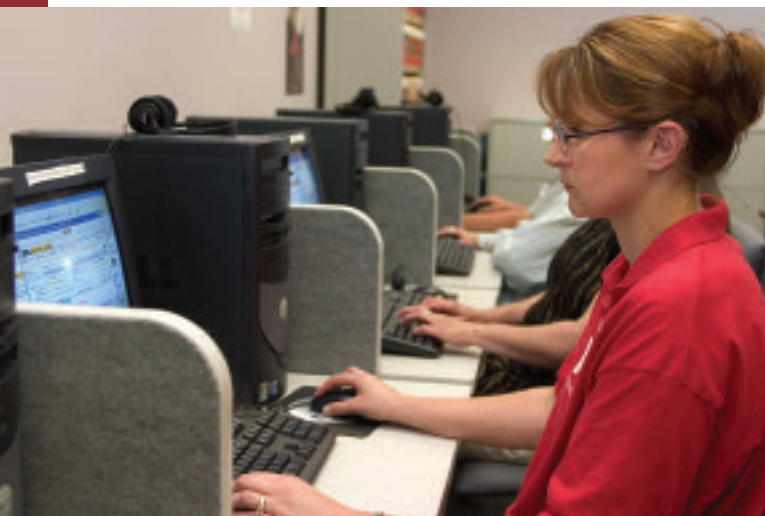
## Careers

The certificate program will prepare you for an entry-level position in the field of health information management with employers such as hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices and insurance companies.

The Associate Degree program will prepare you to sit for the Registered Health Information Technician certification exam. That certification would qualify you for a more responsible position in the field, such as health data analyst, insurance claims analyst, records technician specialist, clinical coding specialist, physician practice manager or patient information coordinator.

The career outlook in this field is favorable, because the fastest employment growth and a majority of the new jobs are expected in offices of physicians. Rapid growth also is expected in nursing care facilities, home healthcare services, and outpatient care centers.

Western graduates currently hold positions as a director of a hospital's Health Information Management Department, a group practice coder and a cancer registrar.



## Alumni Views

***"The instructors were knowledgeable in the health care field and the clinical experiences offered me the opportunity to experience different health care environments.***

***I was able to meet people who had the same career interests that I had and develop peer relationships that I still have today. I consider this a 'golden' experience."***

*Eileen S. McAsey, RHIT, '96  
Health Information Coordinator  
Privacy/Security Officer  
Northwest Health Services, Inc.*

***"My education provided me with the tools I needed to be successful in the medical records field. The reputation of the HIT program is outstanding. I am a very proud graduate."***

*Sarah VanNess, '03, RHIT  
Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City*

## For more information

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Western is an equal opportunity institution.

# Health Information Technology

**Missouri Western State University**





## Health Information Technology Program

If you are interested in healthcare and healthcare records, if you want an interesting career that is in high demand, consider the field of Health Information Technology.

Health information technologists maintain, collect and analyze the data that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers rely on to deliver quality healthcare. As a health information technologist, you are the expert in managing patient health information and medical records, administering computer information systems and coding the diagnoses and procedures for healthcare services provided to patients. You can work in a multitude of settings including hospitals, physician offices and clinics, long-term care facilities, insurance companies or government agencies.

Job prospects in this field are very good due to the rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures.

Western offers a one-year certificate program and a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree with a major in Health Information Technology.

One of the biggest advantages of the Health Information Technology program is that students receive individualized attention regarding their classes and schedules. The department makes a great effort to conduct classes on days and at times when it is most convenient for all the students. Daytime, evening and online classes are offered. Many students are able to continue working full time while completing the program. Students may complete the certificate program part



### Points of Pride

- **The program is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.**
- **The program coordinator was awarded the Missouri Health Information Management Association Outstanding Educator award.**
- **A state-of-the art computer lab contains specialized simulation software so students can gain experience in their field.**
- **The classes are scheduled to accommodate students' work schedules.**
- **The program coordinator is involved in the regional, state and national organizations for Health Information Management.**

time over two years, and they may complete the Associate program full time in two years or part time over four years.

### Internships

All students in the program are required to complete a professional practice experience, where they work in a hospital or other healthcare setting to gain valuable hands-on experience. Students in the program have completed their experience at local sites, in the Kansas City area and regionally.

Students also work on computers with up-to-date specialized software that help them complete simulated professional experience.