FOCUS ON

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

Houston Gulf Coast Region*

ONE CAREER WITH A HEALTHY OUTLOOK

There's a growing job sector in the health care industry with a long and prosperous future ahead. Medical records technicians, also known as health information technicians, offer a career opportunity for those who wish to work in the health care industry, but not in patient care.

Medical records/health information technicians work in hospitals, physician offices, health maintenance organizations, community health centers and other health care organizations.

Job duties vary depending on the size and structure of the employer company, but generally, duties include compiling, processing, and maintaining medical records in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system. The outlook for medical records/health information technician careers is excellent.

Medical records and health information technicians earn good wages, averaging more than $39,000 a year.

THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL RECORDS/HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 31.1 PERCENT BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020, MUCH FASTER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR ALL OCCUPATIONS (22.7 PERCENT).

*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.
How do you become a Medical Records and Health Information Technician?

Most employers prefer to hire registered health information technicians (RHIT). A written examination is offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for graduates of a two-year associate degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

Additional information about obtaining medical records and health information technician credentials is available from the AHIMA website at www.ahima.org. A list of programs accredited by CAHIIM is available at www.ahima.org.

Advancement Opportunities

Experienced medical records and health information technicians are able to advance their careers by moving into supervisory positions or by specializing in Medicare coding or cancer registry. Advancement into a higher administrative position usually requires a bachelor’s degree in medical records and health information administration.
START EARLY AND BE PREPARED
High school students should strive for a high GPA. This will provide them with an edge needed for acceptance in and successful completion of a medical records/health information technician program.

PREPARING FOR A MEDICAL RECORDS & HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN CAREER*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>Suggested Coursework</th>
<th>Career-Related Electives:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English I</td>
<td>World Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Languages other than English I</td>
<td>Technology and Medical Terminology or Keyboarding or Introduction to Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Health/PE or Equivalent</td>
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<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>Suggested Coursework</th>
<th>Career-Related Electives:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English II</td>
<td>World History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Languages other than English II</td>
<td>Health Science Technology I or Business Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Technology Applications</td>
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<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>Suggested Coursework</th>
<th>Career-Related Electives:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English III</td>
<td>United States History</td>
<td>Health Science Technology II or Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems or Languages other than English III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>Communication Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>PE or Equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<th>12th Grade</th>
<th>Suggested Coursework</th>
<th>Career-Related Electives:</th>
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<tr>
<td>English IV</td>
<td>Government/Economics</td>
<td>Health Science Technology III or Independent Study or Languages other than English IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP Physics</td>
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*Source: AchieveTexas.org
GULF COAST REGION MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY CAHIIM

COMMUNITY COLLEGES
• College of the Mainland
• Houston Community College
• Lee College
• Lone Star College
• San Jacinto College
• Wharton County Junior College

UNIVERSITIES
• Texas Southern University

MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION
• Harris County Hospital District
• HCA Healthcare
• Health Care Partners
• Houston VA Medical Center
• Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
• Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
• The Methodist Hospital
• Oak Bend Medical Center
• St. Lukes Episcopal Health System
• Shriners Hospital for Children
• Tenet Health Care
• Texas Childrens Hospital
• The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
• The University of Texas Medical Branch