Program Description

Students who plan to major in health information management will be assigned the temporary major of pre-health information management, with POS code 550, until they are officially admitted to the health information management program. Students may take preparatory courses and courses that fulfill General Education requirements during the waiting period. As an alternative to being assigned a temporary major, students waiting for admission to the health information management program may choose to major in general studies or any other open-enrollment program. The Admissions and Records Office at Takoma Park/Silver Spring will assign a matriculated code once students are admitted to the health information management program.

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to function as health information management technicians in health record services located in hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory care facilities, physician offices, insurance offices, government agencies, and other facilities utilizing health records. The health information management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate will receive the AAS and will be eligible to apply to take the accreditation examination given by the American Health Information Management Association.

The health information management technician is trained in all the functions normally performed by a health record service, which can include analyzing and technically evaluating health records and reports; compiling, interpreting, and utilizing hospital and health care statistics; coding systems, diseases, and operations according to a recognized classification system; assisting with medical facility committee procedures; releasing confidential information in accordance with legal requirements; and abstracting and retrieving medical information. Students in the curriculum are required to earn a grade of C or better in each health information management course before being allowed to proceed to the next course. Full-time and part-time students must see the program coordinator to choose an appropriate sequence of courses as outlined in the Health Information Management Student Handbook. All students must complete HINM-designated courses within the three years prior to graduation. HINM-designated courses not meeting this time requirement must be retaken, or the student must test out in current course content.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of this program a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and communication skills.
- Illustrate competency in compiling health records and coding medical data using different formats and coding systems.
- Identify the components of management and how they relate to running a health record department.
- Assess management techniques for controlling automated functions in a health record department.
- Apply entry-level knowledge, clinical skills, and professional abilities appropriate for an HIM professional.
- Demonstrate correct spelling, punctuation and proficiency in communicating through the oral and written use of basic medical terminology.
Total Credit Hours: 67
* ENGL 101/ENGL 101A, if needed for ENGL 102/ENGL 103, or elective.