

## What Can I Do With a Major in...

# HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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The Health Information field meets the cutting edge of technology. Health Information professionals are the experts on patient data that healthcare providers rely upon to perform their work. Health Information professionals make an important contribution to the delivery of quality care when maintaining, collecting, and analyzing health information.

### What type of career can I have with this major?

A person who is a certified RHIT professional is a health information technician who ensures the quality of medical records by verifying its completeness, accuracy, and proper entry into computer systems. RHITs use computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data for the purpose of improving patient care or controlling costs. RHITs often specialize in coding diagnoses and procedures in patient records for reimbursement and research.

- Data Analyst
- Data Quality Coordinator
- Health Information Department Lead
- Health Information Management
- Health Information Technician
- Health Services Manager
- Information Access Specialist
- Medical Legal Technician
- Medical Record Coder
- Medical Records Technician
- Medical Services Manager
- Professional Biller
- Reimbursements Specialist
- Release of Information Specialist
- Scanning/Document Imaging Technician

### Where can I work?

This profession offers career flexibility in a variety of workplace settings. RHITs may be employed in any organization that uses patient data or health information, such as:

- Inpatient Acute Care Hospitals
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Rehabilitation Facilities
- Home Health & Hospice Agencies
- Ambulatory Medical Groups & Physician Offices
- Information Technology & Software Vendors
- Government Agencies
- Behavioral Health Facilities
- Law Firms
- Consulting Firms
- Biomedical Research Companies
- Pharmaceutical Firms
- Educational Programs
- Insurance Companies
- Correctional Facilities

### What type of professional organizations and resources are available in this industry?

There are professional organizations that offer resources, articles, job opportunities, training and conference information. We suggest you visit each organization's website to gather more information and contacts in your field.

- American Health Information Management Association [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)
- California Health Information Association [www.CaliforniaHIA.org](http://www.CaliforniaHIA.org)

### What type of Health Information Technology program does San Diego Mesa College offer?

Students completing the 2 year accredited program will receive an Associate in Science degree in Health Information Technology. Program graduates are eligible for certification as a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

- Associate in Science: Health Information Technology
- Certificate: Coding Specialist

*See college catalog for program descriptions, course titles, and areas of emphasis.*

## Getting a Degree/Certificate in...

# HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Associates Degrees/Certificates

#### Getting Started

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Step 1: [Application](#) - Start by completing the online application for admission

Step 2 (optional): Attend an information session, please see [HEIT webpage](#) for dates

Step 3: [Program Specific Application](#) – Complete the program specific Health Information Technology program application

Step 4: [Orientation](#) - Complete the online New Student Orientation (Flash player required)

Step 5: [Assessment](#) - Visit the Assessment office to learn about English and math testing

Step 6: [Advisement](#) - Complete the online First Semester Planning Workshop

Step 7: [Registration](#) - Register for classes

#### While You're Taking Classes

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Update your resume and craft a cover letter

Attend job fairs

Conduct industry research

Look into volunteer/internship opportunities

Perform job searches

Think about transfer options

Find a mentor

Expand your network

*See the Transfer or Career Center for assistance*

### Pathways to becoming a Health Information Technician

#### Pathway 1

1. Complete your Associates degree in Health Information Technology at San Diego Mesa College
2. Pass the certification exam (given by American Health Information Management Association) to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).
3. Seek a career in your field!
4. Consider completing specialty certifications from the American Health Information Management Association to advance your career in health information technology.

#### Pathway 2

1. Complete your one-year coding specialist certificate
2. Pass CCS-A, CCS-P or CCS credential exam to become a certified coder

*Information above adapted from*

[http://degreedirectory.org/articles/Health\\_Information\\_Technology\\_Become\\_a\\_Health\\_Information\\_Technician\\_in\\_5\\_Steps.html](http://degreedirectory.org/articles/Health_Information_Technology_Become_a_Health_Information_Technician_in_5_Steps.html)