

Shelton State Community College
Health Information Technology (HIT)

Health information technicians play a vital role in making our healthcare system work. They perform data collection and analysis needed by doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals and are a key part of quality patient care. Health information professionals ensure quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security in both paper and electronic systems.

The Health Information Technology (HIT) Program is designed to prepare individuals, under the supervision of health information administrators and technicians as well as other professionals, to construct medical records and clinical databases, retrieve data, control security and quality of records, supervise data entry, and manage health information personnel. The program includes instruction in clinical and biomedical sciences, information management, database management, medical coding and validation, information security, quality improvement, health information content and structure, medical business procedures, and legal requirements of health information. The student receives laboratory simulation and hands-on experience under the guidance of Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) and Registered Health Information Technicians (RHIT). The HIT courses **must** be taken in sequential order. **The program offers three pathways to enter the HIT field: an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree, a certificate, and a short certificate.**

The Associate Degree Health Information Management Program has Initial Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM). Only a graduate of a CAHIIM-accredited HIT program is eligible to take the national examination to become a RHIT. SSCC's HIT program is one of only three accredited by CAHIIM located in the state of Alabama. CAHIIM is located at 233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Floor, Chicago, IL, 60601-5800, 312.233.1100.

Minimum Admission Criteria for the HIT Program:

1. Program admission in the fall of each year for each of the three pathways - Online applications are accepted May 1-July 1.
2. An official transcript of all college work
3. A copy of current class schedule, if enrolled
4. An overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college coursework completed and 2.5 or higher on the required prerequisite general education courses
5. Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of **C (70)** or above - Complete MTH 116 or higher MTH, ENG 101, HIT 110, BIO 201, BIO 202 for the AAS degree; complete MTH 116 or higher MTH, ENG 101, and HIT 113 for the certificate; please contact the program director for the short certificate.
NOTE: The BIO 202 grade must be within the last five years. If not, it must be repeated for credit prior to the first semester of the program.
6. A copy of Compass, Next Generation ACCUPLACER, or ACT reading score
NOTE: This score must be current within the last **five years**. The Compass reading score must be **seventy-six (76)** or higher; the ACCUPLACER reading score must be seventy (70) or higher; the Next Generation ACCUPLACER exam reading score must be 244 or higher; the ACT reading score must be **seventeen (17)** or higher.
7. Attendance at a Health Services Program Information Session within the last year prior to making application to the program

Curriculum Sequence Health Information Technology – Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree

Prerequisite Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
MTH 116 - Math Applications or MTH 100 - Intermediate College Algebra	3	0	0	3	3
*BIO 201 - Anatomy and Physiology I	3	2	0	4	5
*BIO 202 - Anatomy and Physiology II	3	2	0	4	5
ENG 101 - English Composition I	3	0	0	3	3
**HIT 110 - Medical Terminology	3	0	0	3	3
ORI 101 - Orientation to College	2	0	0	2	2
Total	17	4	0	19	21
Fall First Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
HIT 111 - Diagnostic and Pharmacology	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 115 - Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for HIT	4	0	0	4	4
HIT 130 - Classification and Reimbursement	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 131 - Classification Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 151 - Health Data Content & Structure	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 152 - Skills Development Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
Total	12	4	0	14	16
Spring Second Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
SPH 106 - Fundamentals of Oral Communication or SPH 107 - Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 153 - Health Care Delivery Systems	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 158 - Introduction to Clinical Environment for HIT/MCC	1	0	0	1	1
HIT 221 - HIT Computer Applications	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 230 - Medical Coding Systems I	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 231 - Medical Coding Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 235 - Medical Coding Systems III	2	0	0	2	2
Total	13	2	0	14	15
Summer Third Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
PSY 200 - General Psychology	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 134 - HIT Legal and Ethical Issues	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 222 - HIT Computer Applications Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 232 - Medical Coding Systems II	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 236 - Medical Coding Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 255 - Principles of Supervision in HIT	3	0	0	3	3
Total	12	4	0	14	16
Fall Fourth Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
HUM/FA Elective	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 160 - Professional Practices Experiences	0	0	3	1	3
HIT 254 - Organizational Improvement	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 286 - Expanded Medical Coding	1	2	0	2	3
HIT 292 - HIT Exam Review	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 296 - Professional Practices Simulations	0	4	0	2	4
Total	9	6	3	13	18
Program Total	63	20	3	74	86

*BIO 103 is a prerequisite for this course. Students may take the BIO 103 CLEP test through SSCC Testing and Assessment Services.

**BIO 120 Medical Terminology is acceptable for HIT 110 Medical Terminology with a grade of "C" or above.

Curriculum Sequence Health Information Technology – Medical Coding Certificate

Prerequisite Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
MTH 116 - Math Applications or MTH 100 - Intermediate College Algebra	3	0	0	3	3
ENG 101 - English Composition I	3	0	0	3	3
*HIT 113 - Anatomy, Physiology, and Medical Terminology	5	0	0	5	5
ORI 101 - Orientation to College	2	0	0	2	2
Total	13	0	0	13	13
Fall First Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
HIT 111 - Diagnostic and Pharmacology	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 115 - Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for HIT	4	0	0	4	4
HIT 130 - Classification and Reimbursement	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 131 - Classification Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 151 - Health Data Content and Structure	3	0	0	3	3
Total	12	2	0	13	14
Spring Second Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
SPH 106 - Fundamentals of Oral Communication or SPH 107 - Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 158 - Intro to Clinical Environment for HIT/MCCI	1	0	0	1	1
HIT 221 - HIT Computer Applications	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 230 - Medical Coding Systems I	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 231 - Medical Coding Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 235 - Medical Coding Systems III	2	0	0	2	2
Total	11	2	0	12	13
Summer Third Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
HIT 232 - Medical Coding Systems II	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 236 - Medical Coding Systems Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 283 - Medical Coding Professional Practice	0	4	0	2	4
HIT 286 - Expanded Medical Coding	1	2	0	2	3
HIT 291 - HIT Seminar (Exam Preparation)	1	0	0	1	1
Total	5	8	0	9	13
Program Total	41	12	0	46	53

*BIO 201 - Anatomy and Physiology I, BIO 202 - Anatomy and Physiology II, and HIT 110 or BIO 120 with a grade of "C" or above are acceptable for HIT 113.

Curriculum Sequence Health Information Technology – Medical Coding Short-term Certificate

Fall First Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
ENG 101 - English Composition I	3	0	0	3	3
*HIT 113 - Anatomy, Physiology, and Medical Terminology	5	0	0	5	5
HIT 115 - Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for HIT	4	0	0	4	4
HIT 130 - Classification and Reimbursement	3	0	0	3	3
Total	15	0	0	15	15
Spring Second Term Courses	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credit	Contact
MTH 116 - Math Applications or higher MTH	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 230 - Medical Coding Systems I	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 231 - Medical Coding Skills Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
HIT 232 - Medical Coding Systems II	3	0	0	3	3
HIT 235 - Medical Coding Systems III	2	0	0	2	2
HIT 236 - Medical Coding Systems Laboratory	0	2	0	1	2
**HIT 291 - HIT Seminar (Exam Preparation)	1	0	0	1	1
Optional					
Total	11	4	0	13	15
Program Total	26	4	0	28	30

*BIO 201 - Anatomy and Physiology I, BIO 202 - Anatomy and Physiology II, and HIT 110 or BIO 120 with a grade of "C" or above are acceptable for HIT 113.

HIT 291-HIT Seminar (Exam Preparation) is an **optional course, but is recommended to increase preparation for certification exam.

<u>Estimated Program Fees and Expenses</u>			
Listed below are estimated costs for the Health Information Technology Program options. The amounts listed below are subject to change.			
	AAS Degree	Certificate	Short Certificate
Tuition and Fees	73 hours	46 hours	28 hours
Tuition	\$10,950.00	\$6,900.00	\$4,200.00
Other Fees			
AHIMA Membership Dues	\$49.00	\$49.00	\$49.00
Books (estimate)	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$950.00
ESS Background/Drug/Compliance Fee	\$86.10	\$86.10	0
Program Polo Shirt/Badge	\$45.00	\$45.00	0
Certification Exam Fee	\$229.00* RHIT	\$299.00* CCS	\$199.00* CCA
Exam Review Fee	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Subtotal:	\$1,879.10	\$1,679.10	\$1,398.00
Optional			
Cap, Gown, and Diploma	\$61.00	\$61.00	\$61.00
Approximate Total Cost	\$12,890.10	\$8,640.10	\$5,659.00
*This price applies to student members of AHIMA.			

POLICIES FOR THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Grading Policy and Academic Standards

In the Health Information Technology Program, each student is evaluated on comprehension of theory and laboratory skills in health information domain areas. The Health Information Technology Program uses the following academic grading system.

- A = 100 - 90 Excellent
- B = 89 - 80 Good
- C = 79 - 75 Average
- D = 74 - 60 Failing
- F = 59 - 0

Academic Progression Policy

1. A student must achieve a minimum grade of “C” (75) or above in every HIT course.
2. HIT courses are taught sequentially. **(A student must have a minimum grade of 75 in every course in a given term of work to proceed to the courses taught in the next term.)**
3. Students will be tracked and counseled related to academic progress. A plan for success will be developed when deficiencies are noted. The plan will be placed in the student’s file.
4. In the event a student makes a final grade below 75 in any HIT course, the student must withdraw from the program immediately.

5. The student may apply for readmission to the program; acceptance is conditional upon the following:
 - a. completion of application for readmission
 - b. fulfillment of readmission criteria
 - c. space availability in the next class
 - d. one prior admission only
6. After readmission, if the student does not achieve the minimum 75 final grade in the second attempt of the same HIT course, or fails to achieve the minimum 75 in any other HIT course, the student will be withdrawn from the program. The student may seek admission as a new student after a period of one year.
7. A student absent from the HIT course sequence for more than three semesters must apply as a new student.
8. A student will not be readmitted to the program more than once.

Health and Related Policies

Because participation in clinical instruction is an integral part of the Health Information Technology curriculum, each student is required to comply with all of the **policies and procedures of the contracted clinical agencies** and the HIT Program. Therefore, each student is expected to uphold the contractual terms upon being admitted to the HIT Program. All costs/expenses associated with meeting the health and general policy requirements of the program are the responsibility of the student. The following policies and procedures are required by all students upon acceptance to the Health Information Technology Program.

1. Submit a completed health form from your health care provider.
2. Submit proof of vaccinations, including the following:
 - a. Hepatitis B series or evidence of immunity
 - b. MMR (German Measles, Mumps, Rubella) if born after 1957, or evidence of immunity
 - c. Varicella immunity (immunization record or titer)
 - d. Tetanus vaccination
 - e. TB skin test
 - f. Flu vaccine or declination form
3. Purchase liability and accident insurance through the College.
4. Complete a pre-clinical **drug screen**. The complete drug screen policy is located in the HIT Program Student Handbook.
5. Complete a **background check**. All students must sign a release form for permission to perform a background check as required by federal law. The student must abide by the HIT Program Background Check Policy and Clinical Agency Policy for which the student is assigned. Every effort will be made to provide students with the required clinical experiences to meet program objectives. Any student denied access by a clinical affiliate will be subject to dismissal from the program.

Tasks, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

The Alabama Community College System and Shelton State Community College endorse the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy and when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities. Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective, and social abilities are required in unique combinations to demonstrate health information competencies. The applicant/student must be able to meet

the required tasks, knowledge, skills, abilities, and work activities with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning.

Admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the tasks, skills, and abilities delineated for Health Information Technology professionals with or without reasonable accommodations. The student may request accommodations in writing to the Office of Disability Services located on the first floor of the Martin Campus. Any reasonable accommodations made by the HIT Program must originate from the Office of Specialized Student Services.

Note: Health Information Technology Program information, policies, and curriculum are subject to change without prior notice due to accrediting agency requirements and standardization of the program.

HIT Program Location and Contact Information

HIT Program Location

Shelton State Community College
C. A. Fredd Campus
3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Health Information Program Staff

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