



HEALTH INFORMATION CAREERS

Associate Degree RHIT Pathway

Quick Facts:

Goal: Get a degree and the basic training and certification needed to start or continue a career in health information

Time needed to complete path: two years

Average salary: \$52,771 in 2008

What is an RHIT?

RHIT stands for Registered Health Information Technician. Professionals holding the RHIT credential:

- Ensure the quality of medical records by verifying their completeness, accuracy, and proper entry into computer systems.
- Use computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data for the purpose of improving patient care or controlling costs.
- Often specialize in coding diagnoses and procedures in patient records for reimbursement and research. An additional role for RHITs is cancer registrars - compiling and maintaining data on cancer patients.

With experience, the RHIT credential holds solid potential for advancement to management positions, especially when combined with a bachelor's degree.

What education will I need?

You will need an associate's degree from a CAHIIM-accredited program. [Click here](#) to find an accredited program.

Once I complete my associate degree education, what's the next step?

You can take a national credentialing exam to get your RHIT credential. [Click here](#) to learn more about the exam.

Where can I work once I'm an RHIT?

Although most RHITs work in hospitals, they are also found in other healthcare settings including office-based physician practices, nursing homes, home health agencies, mental health facilities, and public health agencies. In fact, RHITs may be employed in any organization that uses patient data or health information, such as pharmaceutical companies, law and insurance firms, and health product vendors.

Employment is expected to grow much faster than the average. Job prospects should be very good; technicians with a strong understanding of technology and computer software will be in particularly high demand.

Employment change: Employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 20 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. Employment growth will result from the increase in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be performed. As the population continues to age, the occurrence of health-related problems will increase. Cancer registrars should experience job growth as the incidence of cancer increases from an aging population.

In addition, with the increasing use of electronic health records, more technicians will be needed to complete the new responsibilities associated with electronic data management.

Job prospects: Job prospects should be very good. In addition to job growth, numerous openings will result from the need to replace medical record and health information technicians who retire or leave the occupation permanently. Technicians that demonstrate a strong understanding of technology and computer software will be in particularly high demand.

How can I further my career?

[Baccalaureate degree and RHIA credential](#)
[Advanced Certifications \(CHDA, CHPS\)](#)