



HEALTH INFORMATION CAREERS

Health Information Management Master's Pathway

Quick Facts:

Goal: To get a master's degree and prepare for a job as a health information management executive

Time needed to complete path: 2 years

Average salary: The average salary for HIM Directors with masters' degrees averaged \$81,879 in 2008.

What is a Master's in Health Information Management?

A Master's in Health Information Management (MHIM) is a degree that aims to lead students to executive level health information management, enterprise wide HIM leadership, administration, education or research. An MHIM is focused on the strategic and operational relevance and robustness of clinical information resources, workflow, and connectivity within the healthcare industry and public health sectors.

Demand for professionals with an MHIM degree is on the rise.

- The MHIM degree is considered quite valuable by approximately 40 percent of practitioners and employers, and more valuable than other graduate degrees, such as MPA, HAS, and MPH, by 1 in 3 employers.
- The MHIM degree option is considered more valuable than other graduate degrees by 2 in 5 recruiters.

What education will I need?

If you have a Bachelor's degree you can apply to MHIM programs. [Click here](#) to find a Masters' programs reviewed by CAHIIM.

Where can I work once I have an MHIM?

Employment of medical and health services managers is expected to grow 16 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. The healthcare industry will continue to expand and diversify, requiring managers to help ensure smooth business operations. Managers in all settings will be needed to improve quality and efficiency of healthcare, while controlling costs, as insurance companies and Medicare demand higher levels of accountability. Managers also will be needed to oversee the computerization of patient records and to ensure their security as required by law. Additional demand for managers will stem from the need to recruit workers and increase employee retention, to comply with changing regulations, to implement new technology, and to help improve the health of their communities by emphasizing preventive care.

Hospitals will continue to employ the most medical and health services managers over the 2008-18 decade. However, the number of new jobs created is expected to increase at a slower rate in hospitals than in many other industries because of the growing use of clinics and other outpatient care sites. Despite relatively slow employment growth in hospitals, a large number of new jobs will be created because of the industry's large size.

Employment will grow fast in offices of health practitioners. Many services previously provided in hospitals will continue to shift to these settings, especially as medical technologies improve. Demand in medical group practice management will grow as medical group practices become larger and more complex.

Medical and health services managers also will be employed by healthcare management companies that provide management services to hospitals and other organizations and to specific departments such as emergency, information management systems, managed care contract negotiations, and physician recruiting.

Job opportunities will be good, especially for applicants with work experience in healthcare and strong business management skills. Medical and health services managers with experience in large hospital facilities will enjoy an advantage in the job market, as hospitals become larger and more complex. Competition for jobs at the highest management levels will be keen because of the high pay and prestige.