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Date: April 21, 2015
To: All HIM Program Students
From: Leslie Gordon, UAS HIM Program Director
Subject: UAS HIM Program Update – Curriculum Changes

As you plan for the fall semester you may have noticed some of the Health Information Management (HIM) courses look different. I want to take this opportunity to explain the changes to you and help you understand how the changes will affect your course of study.

The UAS HIM AAS degree is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). CAHIIM sets standards for continued accreditation compliance; one of those standards is program curriculum. This includes Student Learning Outcomes or Competencies, in other words what the student is expected to know when they graduate with an AAS degree in HIM. It is the same standard for all programs across the United States.

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) manages and sets the strategic direction for certifications. Upon graduation from accredited associate degree programs students are eligible to sit for the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification examination. The examination is based on an entry level job analysis of current newly credentialed RHITs. The RHIT exam has a different list of competencies from the academic curriculum competencies. It is important to study for the exam before taking it in case there is content that wasn't covered in the program curriculum.

CAHIIM and CCHIIM are separate entities from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). The AHIMA Foundation sponsors the Council for Excellence in Education (CEE). The CEE is the leading force in education strategy for the HIM profession, guiding the workforce through improvements to education, coursework and the curricula of associate, baccalaureate, and graduate programs in HIM.

In 2013, the CEE worked with HIM professionals, educators, and industry leaders to develop competencies that reflect changes in the workforce. This process took two years to complete and resulted in a complete revamping of the HIM competencies for educational programs. The CEE provided the new competencies to CAHIIM in January of 2014. CAHIIM informed all educational programs that they have until January of 2017 to implement the new curricula.

In May of 2013 the UAS HIM Faculty reviewed the learning outcomes for all of the HIM courses and determined the changes needed to reflect the new CAHIIM curriculum standard. While there are courses that needed major adjustments resulting in new courses, others only needed minor adjustments in learning outcomes. There are five courses in which minor adjustments have been made to the learning outcomes you will see in the syllabi but not enough to require academic catalog changes. They are:

- HIM 135 Medical Terminology
- HIM 240 Legal Aspects of Health Information
- HIM 251 Quality Improvement and Project Management
- HIM 280 Healthcare Management
- HIM 291 Internship in Healthcare Management

Two courses have minor name changes:

- HIM 181 HIM Emerging Technologies and Informatics is now Introduction to Healthcare Systems
- HIM 272 Pathophysiology is now Pathophysiology/Pharmacology

Six courses are deleted:

- HIM 111 Introduction to Health Information Management
- HIM 160 Alternative Delivery Systems
- HIM 190 CPT Coding
- HIM 210 ICD-9-CM Coding
- HIM 260 Data Quality and Reimbursement
- HIM 215 Billing and Reimbursement

Seven courses are new:

- HIM 101 Introduction to Health Information Management I
- HIM 102 Introduction to Health Information Management II
- HIM 116 Quantitative Methods in HIM
- HIM 155 Coding I (Outpatient)
- HIM 255 Coding II (Inpatient)
- HIM 258 Coding II (Advanced)
- HIM 261 HIM Revenue and Financial Management
- HIM 281 RHIT Exam Preparation

One course, HIM 289 Healthcare Information Technology, is currently in the catalog and required for the Privacy and Security Certificate. It is now part of the AAS degree as well. CIS 105 will be a pre-requisite for admission into the AAS degree program.



After reviewing the new requirements and identifying courses needing minor and major adjustments, we discussed the need for specific courses to support students with math competencies. HIM 116 Quantitative Methods in HIM will give students a foundation in math used in healthcare. This class will NOT count as a math elective for other programs and for a Baccalaureate degree. We encourage students to take Math 105 if you plan to pursue a higher degree.

The new curriculum is divided into six main topic domains with the addition of new content not currently being taught. The current Introduction to HIM course (HIM 111) has a lot of content and can be overwhelming so we divided Introduction to HIM into two courses with HIM 101 covering Information Governance, Information Protection, Informatics, Analytics and Data Use and HIM 102 covering Revenue Management, Compliance, and Leadership. HIM 101 and HIM 102 can be taken in any order or in the same term. They will both be offered in fall and spring terms and will use the same textbook. This will allow the introduction courses to explore the core topics in greater detail.

For coding we decided that it is best to cover in terms of inpatient and outpatient coding, meaning both CPT and ICD will be taught in all three coding courses. (HIM 155, 255, 258) It is important to plan to take these courses as close together as possible because they will require the purchase of both the CPT and ICD books. The advanced coding class will cover clinical documentation improvement and advanced coding guidelines and regulations.

The Billing and Reimbursement course is being increased to three credits and will include financial management as well as billing and reimbursement.

Finally, HIM 281 is being added as a one credit RHIT exam prep course that can be taken with the current internship course HIM 291.

We have included a worksheet you can use to help you navigate all of these program changes. Please use the worksheet with the courses you have taken and still need to take to see how the changes will affect your course of study.

The following table outlines the changes to the AAS degree.



Summary of Curriculum Changes			
Current Curriculum (Through Summer 2015 term)		New Curriculum (Beginning Fall Academic Year 2015/2016)	
ENGL 111 Methods of Written Communication	3	ENGL 111 Methods of Written Communication	3
ENGL 211 Writing About Literature or ENGL 212 Technical Writing	3	ENGL 211 Writing About Literature or ENGL 212 Technical Writing	3
COMM 111, 235, 237 or 241	3	COMM 111, 235, 237 or 241	3
BIOL 111 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	BIOL 111 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 112 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	BIOL 112 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
CIS 105 Computer Literacy	3	Course or placement exam is now a prerequisite to program admission	3
GER Elective (Natural Sciences, Math, or Social Science)	3	HIM 116 Quantitative Methods in HIM or MATH 105	3
HIM 111 Intro to Health Information Management	3	HIM 101 Intro to Health Information Management I	3
HIM 160 Alternative Delivery Systems (class no longer offered)	3	HIM 102 Intro to Health Information Management II	3
HIM 135 Medical Terminology	3	HIM 135 Medical Terminology	3
HIM 210 ICD-9-CM	3	HIM 155 Coding I (Outpatient)	3
HIM 190 CPT Coding	3	HIM 255 Coding II (Inpatient)	3
HIM 260 Data Quality and Reimbursement	2	HIM 258 Coding III (Advanced)	3
HIM 181 HIM Emerging Technologies and Informatics	3	HIM 181 Name change to Intro to Healthcare Systems	3
HIM 240 Legal Aspects of Health Information	3	HIM 240 Legal Aspects of Health Information	3
HIM 251 Quality Improvement & Project Management	3	HIM 251 Quality Improvement & Project Management	3
HIM 215 Billing and Reimbursement	2	HIM 261 HIM Revenue and Financial Management	3
HIM 272 Pathophysiology	4	HIM 272 Pathophysiology/Pharmacology	4
HIM 280 Healthcare Management	3	HIM 280 Healthcare Management	3
		HIM 289 Healthcare Information Technology	3
		HIM 281 RHIT Exam Prep	1
HIM 291 Internship in Healthcare Management	2	HIM 291 Internship in Healthcare Management	2
Total Credits	60	Total Credits	63



We have included a substitution worksheet and a degree/certificate checklist with this letter to help you navigate all of these program changes. Please call the advising office as soon as you are able to make your degree completion plans.

Advising Office in Sitka
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Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Leslie Gordon
HIM Program Director

Websites for Reference:
CAHIIM www.cahiim.org
AHIMA www.ahima.org
CCHIIM www.ahima.org/certification

A Presentation on the UAS Program changes is posted online
www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/programs/health/him_program_changes

