

Program Level Learning Outcomes Assessment¹
Annual Program Assessment Report²



**Associates of Applied Science (AAS) - Health
Information Management (HIM)
Coding Specialist Certificate
Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate
Annual Program Assessment Report**

**Academic Year
2022-2023**

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Note: the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) externally accredits the UAS Health Information Management (HIM) Associate Degree Program.

As such, the program has significant annual program assessment requirements, including assessment of student learning outcomes. Those requirements can be found at www.cahiim.org. This assessment plan covers not just the AAS degree but also the coding certificate and the privacy and security certificate.

Annual Program Assessment Reports should be based on program assessment plans; be approximately three to five pages in length; and provide the following:

1. Program Overview

The AAS-HIM Program was initially accredited by CAHIIM in 1998 and holds current accreditation. CAHIIM requires an Annual Program Assessment Report (APAR) and every 10 years a detailed program self-assessment. The AAS-HIM program was awarded re-accreditation on May 18, 2022, and the next Comprehensive Program Review for Continuing Accreditation was set for 2029-2030. This academic year the HIM Program was selected to participate in a demonstration program for early adoption of the new 2026 AHIMA standards and will be required to go through another re-accreditation in March 2025. This will put the program in a new cycle with the next re-accreditation under the 2026 standards in 2032-2033.

The two certificates complement the requirements for the AAS-HIM Program. The courses offered in the certificates are also required courses for the AAS-HIM Program and will transfer over to the AAS-HIM degree. An additional Healthcare Information Technology Occupational Endorsement is offered which has program-learning outcomes but does not require an annual assessment plan and is not included in this report.

Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management

The AAS-HIM Program provides a course of study, using primarily e-Learning methodology that prepares entry-level health information professionals. Graduates are eligible to write the national examination; successful completion of the examination leads to the professional credential of Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

An area of HIM specifically focused on coding/classification systems at both the inpatient and outpatient levels. The certificate will allow students to obtain entry-level skills in healthcare coding and the opportunity to continue to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management. National credentialing exams are available at both the entry and advanced levels.

Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate

The Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate prepares students for employment in data access, disclosure, and healthcare informatics. Students who complete this program are prepared to work in a variety of employment settings, particularly in healthcare-related facilities. The certificate contains coursework that will apply toward the Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management.

2. Program-level learning outcomes (PLOs)

Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management

1. Apply knowledge of data structure, content, and information governance (Domain I).
2. Demonstrate knowledge of information protection: access, use, disclosure, privacy, and security (Domain II).
3. Utilize and organize information pertaining to informatics, analytics, and data use (Domain III).
4. Describe, evaluate, and apply revenue cycle functions and processes. (Domain IV).
5. Identify health care laws and regulations (Domain V).
6. Demonstrate organizational management and leadership skills (Domain VI).

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

1. Describe, evaluate, and apply revenue cycle functions and processes. (Domain IV).

Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate

1. Demonstrate knowledge of information protection: access, use, disclosure, privacy, and security (Domain II).

All PLOs are listed in CourseLeaf as described above and are written according to the required outline of UAS and they meet the requirements of program accreditation.

3. How the data is collected on the program learning outcomes (rubrics, portfolios, etc.)

Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management

Data is and will continue to be collected from the student's test scores from the National Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification test. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) RHIT exam covers six domains. The domain scores of each test taker will be compared with the national passing score for each domain to determine the need for program improvement in the content area. The passing score for each domain is 60% on the scored scale. To pass the exam students must get 300 out of 400 points, which is a 75% passing score. Due to the low number of students that sit for the exam, we will monitor domain scores over 5 years for any low score trends within each domain.

Program improvements will also include any accreditation changes, which can include program and student learning outcomes.

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

Data is and will continue to be collected from the student's test scores from the National Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification test in Domain IV, (describe, evaluate, and apply revenue cycle functions and processes). The passing score for this domain is 60% on the scored scale. This domain will be compared with the national passing score to determine the need for program improvement. Due to the low number of students that sit for the exam, we will monitor domain scores over 5 years.

Data is and will continue to be collected from the Certified Coding Special (CCS) Exam Preparation course. Students take a mock exam before the CCS exam in the CCS Exam Preparation (HIM 282) course. The scores from the mock exam will be used with the scores from the RHIT exam to determine the need for program improvement. The passing score for the mock exam is 60%. Due to the low number of students that sit for the exam, we will monitor scores over 5 years.

Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate

Data is and will continue to be collected from the student's test scores from the National Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification test in Domain II, (demonstrate knowledge of information protection: access, use, disclosure, privacy, and security). The passing score for this domain is 60% on the scored scale. This domain will be compared with the national passing score to determine the need for program improvement. Due to the low number of students that sit for the exam, we will monitor domain scores over 5 years.

4. The data collected on the PLOs during the previous academic year (assessment period)

RHIT National Exam Scores for AY 22/23

The RHIT exam test scores are used as a benchmark for data because the PLOs are the same as the test domains on the RHIT National exam. Two students sat for the RHIT exam in AY 22/23. The results of the exam scores for AY 22/23 indicate that student 2 had a 52% in Domain 2: Access, Disclosure, Privacy, and Security. Student 1 had a 39% in Domain 3: Data Analytics and Use.

HIM 282 CCS Exam Prep

*The mock exams are used for this analysis because AHIMA does not provide the CCS national test scores to programs for this exam. However, I do know the status of the following students due to personal communication.

- Student #1 **did not** pass the national exam.
- Student #2 applied for the exam, but it is unknown if the student scheduled and took the exam.
- Student #3 passed the national exam.
- Student #4 took the CCS Exam Preparation course but never applied to take the national exam.
- Student #5 is scheduled to take the exam in June 2024.
- Student #6 **did not pass** the national exam.
- Student #7 has not yet attempted the national exam.
- Student #8 did not upload the correct screenshot to know the score breakdown for the mock exam. The student did pass the national exam. The overall score for domains 1-4 was 60%. The student did take the national exam and passed.

Student #4 scored 55% in Domain 3: Provider Queries. Students #3, #6, and #8 scored low on the case studies 58%, 50%, and 46%. The case studies are the hardest piece of this exam. Students will typically score lower on this piece of the exam. Due to accreditation changes, the coding courses will include more hands-on activities and real-world case studies which will provide a more robust learning experience. The industry's goal is to increase the national pass rate of the coding exam.

5. An evaluation/analysis of the data collected

RHIT National Exam Results 2015-2022

Over the last 9 years 92% of students who have sat for the national exam as passed. We have met the program goal of at least 85% of students that sit for the national exam over 5 years will pass. The data indicates reviewing the specific domains of the RHIT National exam Domain IV seems to be the domain that students are scoring the lowest when looking at the 9 years. The scores of Domains IV Revenue Cycle Management for AY 20/21 through AY 22/23 show the following:

- AY 20/21 – Four students sat for the exam, student 1 scored 53% and student 4 scored 48%. The national pass rate for AY 20/21 is 62%

*Student 1 has a combined percentage with a student in AY 19/20 and students 2 and 3 are combined percentages.

RHIT Domain IV Results AY 21/22

- AY 21/22 – Five students sat for the exam, and student 4 scored 55%. The national pass rate for AY 21/22 is 62%

*Students 2 and 3 are combined percentages.

Domain IV is monitored for both the AAS-HIM Program and the Coding Specialist Certificate. Three out of nine students in the last two academic years have scored low in this domain. Keep in mind that some of the student scores are combined scores.

RHIT Domain IV Results AY 22/23

This year AHIMA started separating the scores of students. This will help with the evaluation of each of the domains.

- AY 22/23 two students took the exam and did well in Domain IV. The national pass rate is 63% in AY 22/23. Due to the new curriculum changes for 2026, there will be more focus on this domain and the scores should continue to improve.

In AY 22/23 the lowest-scoring domains were Domain II and Domain III. The results of the exam scores for AY 22/23 indicate that student 2 had a 52% in Domain 2: Access, Disclosure, Privacy, and Security. Student 1 had a 39% in Domain 3: Data Analytics and Use. The national pass rate for Domain II is 62% and for Domain III is 60%.

The program will re-evaluate these domains when considering the new curriculum requirements for 2026.

Domain II is being monitored for the Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate.

AHIMA started separating the students' scores for AY 22/23. One student scored lower than the average national score for Domain II. Over the last three years, there have been 3 low scores. The program will continue to monitor this domain.

6. Conclusion and plans for program improvement

Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management

The AAS-HIM Program meets our goal of an 85% student pass rate on the RHIT National exam. Looking at the scores from 2015-2023, our average pass rate is 92%. We will continue to monitor the scores on the RHIT exam. The efforts of the state associations to advocate for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to provide student names and individual scores for the exam have been successful. AHIMA started providing individual scores and names this last academic year.

In reviewing the specific domains for the RHIT exam, it looks like the most challenging domain is domain IV, revenue cycle. The most challenging topics in this domain are coding and understanding payment classification systems. The program will be making curriculum changes due to the new 2026 AHIMA curriculum standards. The program will be creating a new course focusing on billing and reimbursement. Creating the new course will make room in HIM 261 Revenue and Financial Management for the expansion of payment classification systems. The coding courses will be reorganized to include more robust coding scenarios.

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

The national pass rate for the Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) Exam is 64%, which is up from last year at 55%. Seven out of 8 students did well on the CCS Exam prep exam.

Four students out of eight sat for the exam and two students passed. This is a 50% pass rate which is lower than the national average.

The program will look at implementing more robust coding assignments to prepare students for the national exam. Most students struggled with the coding case scenarios according to the second mock two exam.

Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate

Historically students enrolled in this certificate are also enrolled in the AAS-HIM program. Currently, the best source for evaluating program outcomes for this certificate is domain II of the RHIT National Exam. In the last three academic years, students have done average in this domain. The program will continue to monitor future opportunities for improvement.

The program is considering discontinuing this certificate due to test requirement changes by AHIMA. The program is considering adding other opportunities for AHIMA credentials to the HIM Program.

¹ PLOs describes what we want our students to know or have learned by the time they finish the program

² Approved by Faculty Senate April 2022