



Health Information Management
University of Alaska Southeast – Sitka Campus

Health Information Management Self-Assessment Plan

Academic Year 2024-2025

Program Director
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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.

Any questions can be directed to the Program Director Terissia Bell, tlbell@alaska.edu (907) 747-7746.

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. It 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 and an occupational endorsement complement the requirements for the AAS-HIM Program and will transfer to the AAS-HIM degree. The Privacy and Security Certificate and the Healthcare Information Technology Occupational Endorsement will be discontinued to add programs that lead to a credential. The new program being added will complement the requirements for the AAS-HIM Program.

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.

***Due to changing industry standards the program has submitted a proposal to discontinue this certificate.**

Healthcare Information Technology

Provides training for healthcare workers in the use of health information technology. Courses introduce the student to the fundamentals of electronic health records including privacy and security of protected health information (PHI).

***Due to changing industry standards the program has submitted a proposal to discontinue this OE.**

Program-level learning outcomes (PLOs)

Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management

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

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

1. Describe, evaluate, and apply revenue cycle functions and processes.

Healthcare Privacy and Security Certificate

1. Demonstrate knowledge of information protection: access, use, disclosure, privacy, and security.

Healthcare Information Technology, OE

1. Utilize and organize information pertaining to informatics, analytics, and data use.

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.

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. Program accreditation requires goals to be set to monitor student outcomes. The student goal for the program is that 70% of students enrolled in the program over 5 years will pass the CAHIIM 2026 competencies. These competencies will be monitored using goal tracking in Blackboard Ultra and an Excel spreadsheet.

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 - Deactivate

The HIM Program will be deactivating this certificate. The certificate was created to prepare students to sit for the Certified Healthcare Privacy and Security national exam through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). AHIMA has changed the requirements to sit for the exam. This new requirement is that the candidate must have experience in the field and must have a degree, one of the degrees being an associate degree in health information management but we cannot

offer the experience in the field. The HIM program will be moving one extra course in this certification to the AAS-HIM Program which is HIM 285 Healthcare Privacy and Security. **This deactivation proposal was submitted to the director and provost on November 19th, 2024, and the last communication was on December 7th, 2024.**

Healthcare Information Technology, OE - Deactivate

The HIM Program will be deactivating this OE. The OE does not result in a student outcome. **This deactivation proposal was submitted to the director and provost on November 19th, 2024, and the last communication was on December 7th, 2024.**

Release of Information, OE - Create

The HIM Program plans to create this OE. The OE will prepare students for the Release of Information Micro-credential offered through AHIMA. The AAS-HIM course currently being offered will transfer from the OE into the AAS-HIM Program so students can decide to obtain their associate degree without taking additional courses. It is a pathway for students to get their foot in the door of healthcare. The data collected for this OE will be the same data being collected for the AAS-HIM Program since all courses and outcomes will be the same. **This program proposal was submitted to the director and provost on November 19th, 2024, and the last communication was on December 7th, 2024.**

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

RHIT National Exam Scores for AY 23/24

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. Four students took the HIM 281 RHIT Examination Prep course in AY 23/24. Two students sat for the exam and passed in the fall of 2023. One student in the spring of 2024 applied for the exam but never sat for it. The other spring student sat for the exam in August of 2024. Those results will be part of AY 24/25.

Four students sat for the exam in AY 23/24, this included the two students in the fall of 2023 and two additional students who were graduates of the program several years ago. One student graduated from the program in the spring of 2020, and the other student graduated from the program in the fall of 2018. Below is the breakdown of each of the student's results.

- Student #1 graduated in the spring of 2020 and passed the national exam.
- Student #2 graduated in the fall of 2023 and passed the national exam.
- Student #3 graduated in the fall of 2023 and passed the national exam.
- Student #4 graduated in the fall of 2018 and passed the national exam.

Student #1 scored 59% in Domain V Health Law and Compliance the average national score in this domain is 63%

Student #2 scored above average in all domains.

Student #3 scored above average in all domains.

Student #4 scored 63% in Domain I, Data Structure, Content, and Information Governance, (national average of 66%) in Domain III 40%, in Informatics, Analytics, and Data Use, (national average of 57%) Domain IV 56%, Revenue Cycle Management, (national average of 61%) and Domain V 53% Health Law and Compliance (national average of 63%).

The new breakdown of the domain scores per student will allow the program to better evaluate areas for improvement. Note that student #4 graduated in 2018 and did not sit for the exam until 2024.

HIM 282 CCS Exam Prep for AY 23/24

*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.

Three students took the HIM 282 CCS Exam Prep course in AY 23/24. One student who took the exam prep course sat for the exam. Two other students who took the prep course in a different year sat for the national exam in AY 23/24. A total of three students sat for the exam in AY 23/24.

- Student #1 passed the national exam.
- Student #2 passed the national exam.
- Student #3 [did not](#) pass the national exam.
- Student #4 took the CCS Exam Preparation course but did not sit for the exam. The student sat for the RHIT exam instead and passed.
- Student #5 took the CCS Exam Preparation course, but it is unknown if this student sat for the exam.

Student #1 is the student who took the exam prep course in AY 23/24 and passed the exam. This student did well on the final case studies. She scored 53% in Domain I Coding Knowledge and Skill.

Student #2 took the exam prep course in the spring of 2023 (AY 22-23). This student did well in all domains and scored 58% on case studies.

Student #3 took the exam prep course in the spring of 2023 (AY 22-23). She scored 53% in Domain I Coding Knowledge and Skills, and 50% on case studies.

Student #4 took the exam prep course in the fall of 2023 and did well in all domains and scored 56% on the case studies. The student has not taken the national exam.

Student #5 took the exam prep course in spring 2024. The student did well in all domains and got 55% on the case studies. This student did not sit for the national exam.

An evaluation/analysis of the data collected

RHIT National Exam Results 2015-2024

Over the last 9 years 92% of students who have sat for the national exam 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 22/23 and 23/24

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 average 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.
- AY 23/24 four students sat for the RHIT exam. One student scored 56% on Domain IV. This student graduated in 2018 and sat for the exam in 2024. The national average for Domain IV is 61% in AY 23/24.

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 II: Access, Disclosure, Privacy, and Security. Student 1 had a 39% in Domain III: 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.

In AY 23/24 the lowest-scoring domain was Domain III: Data Analytics and Use with 40%, the national average is 57% in AY 23/24. The student who scored low in this domain graduated from the program in

2018 and took the exam in 2024.

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 four years, there have been several low scores. The program will continue to monitor Domains II, III, and IV.

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 2015-2024, our average pass rate is 92%. Since the HIM Program has met and exceeded the goal of an 85% pass rate a new student goal was made. The goal for AY 25/26 is, 70% of students enrolled in the program will pass the CAHIIM 2026 competencies over 5 years.

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.

This AY 2024-2025 the AAS-HIM program is making changes to the curriculum due to the new 2026 accreditation requirements. Those changes are going through the curriculum committee this fall in preparation for AY 2025-2026. The program is adding two new courses HIM 236 Healthcare Reimbursement, and HIM 285 Privacy and Security. The addition of HIM 236 Healthcare Reimbursement 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. HIM 285 Privacy and Security will meet the needs of the new technology requirements in the 2026 curriculum changes. The program will also monitor Domains II and III to see if the new curriculum requirements increase the pass rates in these areas.

Health Information Management Coding Specialist Certificate

The national pass rate for the Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) Exam is 71%, which is up from last year at 64%.

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 in AY 22/23.

Three students sat for the exam in AY 23/24 and two students passed. This is a 67% pass rate which is lower than the national average of 71%.

There was a total of 7 students who took the exam from AY 22/23 to AY 23/24. Out of the 7 students, 4 passed which is a cumulative 57% pass rate, which is still lower than the national average pass rate.

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. Due to the new curriculum requirements, the coding courses changed textbooks with more robust coding scenarios. Over the next few years, the program anticipates a higher pass rate.

Release of Information, OE

This is a new program proposal that is being created this AY 2024-2025. We did not make the deadline to have this program considered for AY 2025-2026 but will hopefully be considered for AY 2026-2027.