

Administrative Response to Program Review
Health Information Management
Prepared by Scott Huff
Draft 07 September 2009

The Health Information Management Program Review was presented in the Spring of 2009 and began with information regarding the HIM program, including its history of moving from an on-campus to an on-line program as well as background on specialty accreditation. It was helpful to be informed (or reminded) of how we came to be where we are since it provides context for where we are going in the future, including preparation of students for the developing field of Health Informatics.

Information about what health information management is now and will become in the future was quite helpful. Your improvement plan for the program undoubtedly contributes to the high degree of success our students have in becoming Registered Health Information Technicians through the national exam offered by AHIMA. Having RHITs capable of meeting the expanding needs of our nation's health care system is important and it is rewarding to know that PCC is ready for that charge.

The discussion on mission, values, and goals was helpful and it is good to know that we partner with other community colleges in Oregon and Washington to provide pathways for their certificate graduates to continue their education. The curriculum discussion, including how the program maintains currency and alignment with AHIMA and CAHIIM, was very informative. It is reassuring to know that the program is always improving and updating, as evidenced by your description of the AHIMA's "Vision 2016" and your thoughtful plan to move from ICD-9 to ICD-10 over the next few years. The commitment to continuously update and improve courses, including your commitment to use AHIMA's virtual lab beginning this Fall, is acknowledged. Discussion of course outcomes, including the example of how critical thinking skills are included, was informative.

Sharing the timeline of HIM's move to an on-line program, including the offering of on-line A&P courses beginning this Fall, was a good reminder of how small steps add up to big steps. Having the program completely on-line is a big step accomplished through many small steps.

With regards to the section on "Faculty", you have, with the retirement of one of the two full-time HIM instructors, an opportunity to bring on board someone to help further transition the program to what it needs to be in the future, adding someone with a strong HIM background with expertise in Health Informatics. And with regards to the Admissions Coordinator, the coming hire a new Academic Professional provides an opportunity to improve the admissions process and to articulate better with the Perkins advisors serving Cascade's allied health programs. May that be the case.

The final section of the Program Review, "Recommendation for Improvements" is well done. It is good to know what we do well and what needs to be improved. That past and present instructors have been and continue to be involved with professional groups contributes to the program's strength and success. Involvement in accreditation activities is encouraged and will be supported by the college. With respect to needs, we will support the addition of AHIMA's Virtual Lab to the program and appreciate your efforts in incorporating this into the curriculum. We will also support the training necessary to move from ICD-9 to ICD-10. Please consider offering this in CEU form to those already in the business. The SAC's recommendation for instructor qualifications is accepted and its recommendations for course improvements will be supported.

Thank you for efforts to create and maintain high quality Health Information Management program. It serves well the needs of students, whether they be local or far from Portland. Your commitment to creating and maintaining a high quality distance education program is recognized and your willingness to continue to adapt the program to changing needs related in health information management is appreciated.