



## The Growing Field of Health Information Management and Technology

The University of Wisconsin Online Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management and Technology (HIMT) prepares students to work in one of the fastest growing fields in the United States.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of health information and medical records technicians is expected to increase 20 percent by 2018; much faster than the average for all other occupations in the United States. So graduates of the HIMT program—the only health information management degree currently available in the UW System—can expect to find an extremely positive employment outlook.

That's because today's healthcare environment relies so heavily on technology. Information technology is the lifeline to patient care, linking doctors, nurses, clinicians, surgeons, and pharmacists to vital, accurate and secure data so they can make better decisions. The job prospects should be very good for people who have strong computer software and management skills, along with an understanding of healthcare terminology.

Driving much of the growth is the nation's conversion to electronic medical records. The federal government has mandated a switch from paper to electronic records. How that data is used and stored can be a matter of life or death for a patient.

In addition, an aging population means hospitals and clinics must track decades of patient data on chronic diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, orthopedic disorders, and more. Tracking vast amounts of data over time and translating them into useful information that practitioners can quickly access, dramatically impacts a patient's health outcome.

Combined, these advances in health technologies, digitized health records, and changing demographics have contributed to a greater need for highly skilled IT professionals who can manage this rapidly evolving world of data.

"The degree is unique in that it accommodates a wide range of career paths. It can be your springboard to a career in the fast-growing field of healthcare or the key to advancement within your current career."

*Brenda Tyczkowski, Academic Director, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

### For more information contact:

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