



Dallas County Community College District
<http://www.richlandcollege.edu/hit/admissions.php>

Houston Community College – Coleman College for Health Sciences
<http://coleman.hccs.edu/hitech>

Midland Community College
<http://www.midland.edu/hitt/hitech.php>

HITECH Programs for Health Information Education

Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals in Health Care Program

Dallas County Community College District, Houston Community College- Coleman College for Health Sciences and Midland Community College, are offering a non-degree Health Information Technology Training Program to prepare the Electronic Health Record workforce. This 6-month program is designed to provide a pool of qualified workers to implement and maintain electronic medical records. Students must have either a medical or information technology background. Job Placement Assistance will be provided! Tuition assistance is being provided to the first 150 students of each college.

For more information, and to apply, visit the colleges at:

Dallas County Community College District (serving north east Texas)

www.richlandcollege.edu/HIT

Houston Community College – Coleman (serving south Texas)

coleman.hccs.edu/HITT

Midland Community College – (serving west Texas) www.midland.edu/hitt

PURE HIT - Program of Assistance for University-Based Training

The Professional University Resources and Education for Health Information Technology (PURE HIT) is a consortium project supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). PURE HIT is recruiting students to participate in HIT certificate programs and a master's program in electronic health record (EHR) /health information exchange (HIE) Implementation. The PURE HIT consortium is led by Texas State University in collaboration with The University of Texas College of Natural Sciences in Austin and The University of Texas Health School of Biomedical Informatics at Houston.

Visit **Texas State University** at <http://pure-hit.health.txstate.edu/>

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Biomedical Informatics has opened the Master of Science in Applied Health Informatics (Pending Approval). The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) will fund up to 29 full-time students for the one-year duration of the Master of Science in Applied Health Informatics program. For selected full-time (9 hrs/semester) students, the ONC grant will subsidize:

- 60% of tuition and fees
- A \$15,000 stipend
- Free student health insurance for the duration of the program

Visit the UTHSC at <http://www.uthouston.edu/sbmi/education/applied/>

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

Health Information Technology Professionals in Health Care

Houston Community College (HCC) – Coleman College for Health Sciences received a \$1 million grant to train the following six (6) Health IT roles to experienced Health Care and IT professionals. A blueprint of the curriculum is attached which will be used in a six (6) month CE curriculum and distance education web-based platform.

We are currently working with Gulf Coast Regional Extension Center, the state of Texas Health Information Exchange, Texas Medical Foundation and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Institutional Division. We are also joined in the grant by two other Texas schools which are Midland Community College and Dallas Community College District. The first 150 students to be admitted to each college will have receive tuition reimbursement.

Qualified applicants must meet pre-assessment criteria and have background experience in IT or Health Care with basic computer skills. Upon completion of the program, graduates are expected to sit for the national competency exam developed by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). The first 22,000 to sit for the exam will have the fee waived. Graduates will find employment with health care institutions, physician offices, and vendors of EHRs.

Because of this unprecedented educational opportunity to impact the Health Information profession, I request that TxHIMA place an announcement on its website as a service to its members. The website links for the colleges are as follows:

Houston Community College (HCC) – Coleman College for Health Sciences

coleman.hccs.edu/HIT

Carla.Tyson@hccs.edu

Midland Community College

<http://www.midland.edu/hitt/hitech.php>

MTeel@midland.edu

Dallas Community College District

ShannonY@dcccd.edu

Health IT Roles (Mobile and Permanent)

Mobile Adoption Support Positions

These members of the workforce will support implementation at specific locations for a period of time, and when their work is done, will move on to new locations. Workers in these roles might be employed by regional extension centers, providers, vendors, or state/city public health agencies, and would work together in teams. Preparation for this set of roles will typically require six months of intense training for individuals with appropriate backgrounds

1. Practice workflow and information management redesign specialists: (Salary Range: \$91,917 - \$126,914)

Workers in this role assist in reorganizing the work of a provider to take full advantage of the features of health IT in pursuit of meaningful use of health IT to improve health and care. Individuals in this role may have backgrounds in health care (for example, as a practice administrator) or in information technology, but are not licensed clinical professionals. Workers in this role will:

- Conduct user requirements analysis to facilitate workflow design
- Integrate information technology functions into workflow

- Document health information exchange needs
- Design processes and information flows that accommodate quality improvement and reporting
- Work with provider personnel to implement revised workflows
- Evaluate process workflows to validate or improve practice's systems

2. Clinician/practitioner consultants: (Salary Range: \$67,762 - \$98,117)

This role is similar to the “redesign specialist” role listed above but brings to bear the background and experience of a licensed clinical and professional or public health professional. In addition to the activities noted above, workers in this role will:

- Suggest solutions for health IT implementation problems in clinical and public health settings
- Address workflow and data collection issues from a clinical perspective, including quality measurement and improvement
- Assist in selection of vendors and software
- Advocate for users' needs, acting as a liaison between users, IT staff, and vendors

3. Implementation support specialists: (Salary Range: \$57,000 – \$85,000)

Workers in this role provide on-site user support for the period of time before and during implementation of health IT systems in clinical and public health settings. The previous background of workers in this role includes information technology or information management. Workers in this role will:

- Execute implementation project plans, by installing hardware (as needed) and configuring software to meet practice needs
- Incorporate usability principles into design and implementation
- Test the software against performance specifications
- Interact with the vendors as needed to rectify problems that occur during the deployment process

4. Implementation managers: (Salary Range: \$87,500 – \$114,600)

Workers in this role provide on-site management of mobile adoption support teams for the period of time before and during implementation of health IT systems in clinical and public health settings. Workers in this role will, prior to training, have experience in health and/or IT environments as well as administrative and managerial experience. Workers in this role will:

- Apply project management and change management principles to create implementation project plans to achieve the project goals
- Interact with office/hospital personnel to ensure open communication with the support team
- Lead implementation teams consisting of workers in the roles described above
- Manage vendor relations, providing feedback to health IT vendors for product improvement

Permanent Staff of Health Care Delivery and Public Health Sites

These roles are needed for ongoing support of health IT that has been deployed in office practices, hospitals, health centers, long-term care facilities, health information exchange organizations and state and local public health agencies. Preparation for this set of roles will typically require six months of intense training for individuals with appropriate backgrounds.

5. Technical/software support staff: (Salary Range: \$44,281 – \$59,500)

Workers in this role maintain systems in clinical and public health settings, including patching and upgrading of software. The previous background of workers in this role includes information technology or information management. Workers in this role will:

- Interact with end users to diagnose IT problems and implement solutions
- Document IT problems and evaluate the effectiveness of problem resolution
- Support systems security and standards

6. Trainers: (Salary range: 58,493 -\$83,505)

Workers in this role design and deliver training programs, using adult learning principles, to employees in clinical and public health settings. The previous background of workers in this role includes experience as a health professional or health information management specialist. Experience as a trainer in from the classroom is also desired. Workers in this role will:

- Be able to use a range of health IT applications, preferably at an expert level
- Communicate both health and IT concepts as appropriate

- Assess training needs and competencies of learners
- Design lesson plans, structuring active learning experiences for users
- Track training records of the users and develop learning plans for further instruction

Health IT Workforce Curriculum Components

	<i>Category</i>	<i>Component Name</i>	<i>Component Description</i>
1	Health	Introduction to Health Care and Public Health in the U.S.	A survey of how health care and public health are organized and services delivered in the U.S. Covers public policy, relevant organizations and their interrelationships, professional roles, legal and regulatory issues, and payment systems. Must also address health reform initiatives in the U.S.
2	Health	The Culture of Health Care	For individuals not familiar with health care, this course addresses job expectations in health care settings. It will discuss how care is organized inside a practice setting, privacy laws, and professional and ethical issues encountered in the workplace.
3	Health	Terminology in Health Care and Public Health Settings	Explanation of specific terminology used by workers in health care and public health. Note that this is NOT a course in data representation or standards.
4	IT	Introduction to Information and Computer Science	For students without an IT background, provides a basic overview of computer architecture; data organization, representation and structure; structure of programming languages; networking and data communication. Includes basic terminology of computing.
5	Health IT	History of Health Information Technology in the U.S.	Traces the development of IT systems in health care and public health, beginning with the experiments of the 1950s and 1960s and culminating in the HITECH act. Introduces the concept of meaningful use.
6	Health IT	Health Management Information Systems	A “theory” component, specific to health care and public health applications.

	<i>Category</i>	<i>Component Name</i>	<i>Component Description</i>
			Introduction to health IT standards, health-related data structures, software applications; enterprise architecture in health care and public health organizations.
7	Health IT	Working with Health IT Systems	A laboratory component. Students will work with simulated systems or real systems with simulated data. As they play the role of practitioners using these systems, they will learn what is happening “under the hood.” They will experience threats to security and appreciate the need for standards, high levels of usability, and how errors can occur. Materials must support hands-on experience in computer labs and on-site in health organizations.
8	Health IT	Installation and Maintenance of Health IT Systems	Instruction in installation and maintenance of health IT systems, including testing prior to implementation. Introduction to principles underlying configuration. Materials must support hands-on experience in computer labs and on-site in health organizations.
9	Health IT	Networking and Health Information Exchange	More in-depth analysis of data mobility including the hardware infrastructure (wires, wireless, and devices supporting them), the ISO stack, standards, Internet protocol, federations and grids, the NHIN and other nationwide approaches.
10	Health IT	Fundamentals of Health Workflow Process Analysis & Redesign	Fundamentals of health workflow process analysis and redesign as a necessary component of complete practice automation; includes topics of process validation and change management.

	<i>Category</i>	<i>Component Name</i>	<i>Component Description</i>
11	Health IT	Configuring EHRs	A practical experience with a laboratory component, addressing approaches to assessing, selecting, and configuring EHRs to meet the specific needs of customers and end-users.
12	Health IT	Quality Improvement	Introduces the concepts of health IT and practice workflow redesign as instruments of quality improvement. Addresses establishing a culture that supports increased quality and safety. Discusses approaches to assessing patient safety issues and implementing quality management and reporting through electronic systems.
13	Health IT	Public Health IT	For individuals specifically contemplating careers in public health agencies, an overview of specialized public health applications such as registries, epidemiological databases, biosurveillance, and situational awareness and emergency response. Includes information exchange issues specific to public health.
14	Environment	Special Topics Course on Vendor-Specific Systems	Provides an overview of the most popular vendor systems highlighting the features of each as they would relate to practical deployments, and noting differences between the systems.
15	Environment	Usability and Human Factors	Discussion of rapid prototyping, user-centered design and evaluation, usability; understanding effects of new technology and workflow on downstream processes; facilitation of a unit-wide focus group or simulation.

	<i>Category</i>	<i>Component Name</i>	<i>Component Description</i>
16	Soft Skills	Professionalism/Customer Service in the Health Environment	Development of skills necessary to communicate effectively across the full range of roles that will be encountered in health care and public health settings.
17	Soft Skills	Working in Teams	An experiential course that helps trainees become “team players” by understanding their roles, the importance of communication, and group cohesion.
18	Soft Skills	Planning, Management and Leadership for Health IT	For those preparing for leadership roles, principles of leadership and effective management of teams. Emphasis on the leadership modes and styles best suited to IT deployment.
19	Other	Introduction to Project Management	An understanding of project management tools and techniques that results in the ability to create and follow a project management plan.
20	Other	Training and Instructional Design	Overview of learning management systems, instructional design software tools, teaching techniques and strategies, evaluation of learner competencies, maintenance of training records, and measurement of training program effectiveness.