

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COURSES OFFERED BY ACCREDITED U.S. UNIVERSITIES

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ABSTRACT

There is little doubt that the healthcare industry is experiencing tremendous growth in regards to technology. Healthcare information technology is currently growing at an accelerated rate. As older healthcare information systems are phased out, newer technologies with the latest features are replacing them (Ker, Wang, & Hajli, 2017). These new advances in information technology combined with the increase for health care reform have intensified the need for skilled individuals who can develop, understand, and manage medical information systems within organizations (Howard, Bishop-Clark, Evans, & Rose, 2013). Therefore, a new generation of professionals, trained in health informatics, will be needed (Landry, Daigle, Pardue, Longenecker, & Campbell, 2012).

Therefore, health information technology professionals will be in increasing demand as healthcare providers require assistance in the adoption and important use of electronic health record systems (Ashrafi, Kuilboer, Joshi, Ran, & Pande, 2014). Since these professionals tend to have university degrees, the question is: "Are universities filling the demand for health information technology professional?"

As a result, this preliminary research investigates the current state of university curricula. This research investigates the different scopes and depths of health information technology offered by higher education within universities. We examine whether accredited universities in US are offering courses and programs to students in this career path. Although the research is exploratory we provide implications for the findings. The results of this study should be of interest to those, who directly or indirectly, would benefit of educating a new generation of the workforce in health information technology.

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