

NEWS FROM MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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MCC Receives Grant for Health Information Management Degree

MANCHESTER—Manchester Community College has received a \$143,000 federal grant to create a Health Information Management (HIM) associate degree. The grant, procured with the help of NH Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, will allow the college to hire a program coordinator, develop academic curriculum, purchase specific software and hardware, and seek program accreditation. Funding is through a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant.

"New Hampshire needs skilled health information management personnel," says Manchester Community College President Darlene Miller. According to the NH Department of Employment Security's Economic & Labor Market Information, demand will grow 24% between 2006 and 2016. "Practitioners must provide accurate information, maintain confidentiality, assist with quality improvement and risk management matters, and maintain currency in the field," she says.

Graduates of the new HIM program will be eligible to sit for several national certifications, including the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) national certification examination (RHIT credential) and a variety of other certifications offered through the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC) and AHIMA."

"Once certified, our graduates will be qualified to serve as information technicians, cancer registrars, quality improvement assistants, health information managers and medical coders," says Professor Cindy Feldhousen, chair of the Allied Health Sciences Department at the college.

"To ensure that our students will meet or exceed industry standards, one of our first steps is to invite practitioners in the field to join our HIM Advisory Board," Feldhousen says.

The new degree will include classes in medical terminology, medical coding, pharmacology, health care delivery systems, legal issues, hospital records, registry and statistics, and liberal arts and science, as well as internships in the field.

The HIM program complements MCC's other Allied Health programs – Medical Assisting, Medical Coding, Medical Secretary, Exercise Science, Personal Training, Phlebotomy and Nursing. "We're proud to report that our Medical Assistant graduates have a 100% pass rate on the Medical Assistant Certification examination and 100% job placement after graduation. Our Nursing graduates pass their Nursing boards with a pass rate of over 90%. We're sure students in our new program will be equally successful," Miller says.

MCC plans to begin accepting applications for the new Health Information Management program in early 2009. Because several of the courses are already in place as part of other MCC programs, students interested in the HIM degree may begin taking courses in the spring 2009 semester.



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