

Health Informatics Professional

- Builds and manages computerized systems to collect, store, and retrieve health information
- Analyzes and interprets data to facilitate decisions and actions in healthcare

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Organized
- Strong project manager
- Strong computing skills



Health informatics professionals work in an interdisciplinary field incorporating healthcare, information technology, and computer science. They collaborate with clinicians, administrators, researchers, and public health professionals to develop new technologies and efficient health information systems which allow secure access to complete and accurate data. This data may help clinicians and patients make vital decisions regarding diagnoses and treatments, administrators to solve problems and evaluate the quality of care, or public health professionals to conduct research, surveillance, and prevention/intervention campaigns. With the switch to electronic health records and the data-driven healthcare industry there is a critical shortage of these professionals to meet the increasing demand.

Median Salary: \$79,000 or \$37.98 an hour

Areas of Specialization

- Clinical informatics
- Public health informatics

Work Environments

- Academic research centers
- Colleges and universities
- Government agencies
- Hospitals and health systems
- Insurance companies
- Medical and physician groups
- Mental and behavioral health facilities
- Outpatient clinics
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private healthcare organizations
- Public health organizations

Academic Requirements

- A background in information technology, computer science, or healthcare
- Most formal educational programs offered at the associate, bachelor's, or graduate level
- Some certificate programs also available

Licensure and Certification

- Voluntary national certification from the American Health Information Management Association for the Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) credential
- Voluntary national certification from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society for the Certified Associate or Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS/CPHIMS) credentials

Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association
www.ahima.org

American Medical Informatics Association
www.amia.org

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
www.cahiim.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
www.ghima.org

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
www.himss.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

College of Coastal Georgia
Georgia State University

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Emory University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University