

Health Information Management Program  
Department of Health Sciences  
Changes Based Upon Assessment Data  
August 2005

The Health Information Management Program implemented a multiple measures assessment program in August of 2002. The assessment program consistent of several different qualitative and quantitative assessment approaches that included the following:

- Monitoring registry examination outcomes
- Surveying new graduates and alumni
- Receiving guidance and recommendations an advisory committee of practicing professionals
- Performing a regular analysis of curricular content

### **Assessment and Action**

#### **Registry Examination Outcomes**

Graduates from the Health Information Management Program have an average 87% passing rate on the national registry examination from 2002-2004 (data available). This compares favorably with the nation passing rate of 85%.

The students are evaluated in ten different categories. ISU graduates met or exceed the national performance rate in all ten professional categories except in 2004. In 2004 ISU graduates fell below the national average in 3 of 10 categories. The HIM Advisory Committee reviewed the examination results and recommended that no major curriculum or program revisions be made at this time. They did not feel the performance variation was significant, since ISU graduates were successfully passing the registry examination.

#### **Graduate and Alumni Surveys**

Graduate and alumni surveys are completed on an annual basis. New graduates, one year alumni and three year alumni are surveyed. The surveys address every aspect of the HIM Program from the curricular content to organization and structure of the program itself. The results of these surveys have been very positive with the 100% of the recent graduates and alumni expressing satisfaction with the program in all areas except three: advising, course scheduling and information technology. The following describes how we are address each of these problem areas.

#### **Advising and course scheduling**

After a critical review and analysis of the survey results, program faculty and the Program Advisory Committee believe that these two problems areas on the survey are addressing the same problem – convenient and logical scheduling or courses. The HIM Program has done extensive updates and revisions of course content over the past fifteen years, but the program faculty have never reviewed the scheduling of program courses. The HIM Program is small program that only offers classes, once a

year. The students have to take the courses in “lock-step” order. The program does not offer the student any flexibility with taking course.

This lack of course scheduling flexibility (1) limits the students’ ability to take courses in other departments or programs; (2) limits the students ability to schedule courses which compliment work schedules. The burden of scheduling course is often placed on the student advisor who has limited flexibility to help the students.

Action:

Beginning in the Spring 2005, the HIM program will begin offering 200 level courses (Juniors) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 300 level courses (senior) on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes will begin at 9:00 am and end by 5:00 pm with a minimum of a 45 minute break between classes. This will provide the students and the program advisor with flexibility to schedule work or classes. The 2006 graduate survey will be reviewed to see if the responses improve.

### **HIM Advisory Committee**

A committee of practice HIM professionals from area institutions meet annually to review the programs curriculum and organizational structure. This committee is presented with problems and issues encounter by the program faculty for evaluation and recommendation. Two concerns that were presented to the advisory committee are presented below with the committee’s recommendations.

#### **Professional Competencies and HIM curriculum**

The program received the update Health Information Management Professional Competencies in March 2005. The faculty completed a gap analysis of the competencies and curriculum in April 2005. In May 2005 the HIM Program Advisory Committee reviewed the new competencies at the annual advisory committee meeting and the program faculty’s curriculum revision recommendations. The advisory committee agreed with the faculty recommendations.

Action:

A curriculum revision will be submitted in August 2005 with the following revisions:

- HSC 214: Alternative Classification Systems – will be increased by one credit hour to address the new knowledge, skills and competencies proposed by the American health Information Management Association Council on Education.
- HSC 310: Health Information Management Seminar – will be decreased by one hour and will focus on student preparation for the professional registry examination.

#### **Professional Practice Electronic Health Record**

With the implementation electronic health records, the HIM faculty expressed a concern with providing student access to examples of electronic health records (EHR). All the area hospitals are implementing systems, but every system is different. The HIM Program does not have access to a comprehensive EHR for student use.

The HIM Advisory Committee proposed that every student should be given access to an EHR during the student's clinical experience. The students will be able to share their experiences with the different systems in subsequent classes. The advisory committee recommended that every student participate in a clinical professional practice in institutions with EHRs before taking 300 level courses to insure they had "hands-on" experience with an electronic health data.

Action:

A curriculum revision will be submitted in August 2005 with the following revisions:

- All 300 level courses will require 398.03 Clinical professional Practice as a prerequisite.