

January 31, 2020

Valerie Watzlaf, PhD, MPH, RHIA, FAHIMA
Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Education
University of Pittsburgh
School of Health and Rehabilitation Science
Department of Health Information Management
6051 Forbes Tower
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Dr. Watzlaf:

Thank you for submitting the request for extension of the 2020-2021 Comprehensive Program Reviews scheduled for the undergraduate and graduate programs in Health Information Management. The extension is approved based on the current documented and planned substantive changes that include a transition into a Masters in Health Informatics (MSHI) degree program with an inception date in 2020.

The programs have been provided a new program review date and extension. The programs will participate in the **2022-2023** program review cycle. A notification letter will be sent in Spring 2022 with the Self-Assessment information to be submitted in 2023.

Contact me at george.payan@cahiim.org if you have any questions. I appreciate your assistance with this process.

Sincerely,



George J. Payan
Accreditation Operations Manager

Cc: Anthony Delitto, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Dean and Professor
Angela Kennedy, EdD, RHIA, CAHIIM CEO
Jayne Kosik, CAHIIM, Director of Business Operations



Annual Program Assessment Report

Program: University of Pittsburgh
Reporting Period: 8/1/2019 - 7/31/2020
Submitted On: 3/22/2021
Approved On: 10/8/2021

Profile

GENERAL

Program Name: University of Pittsburgh
EPC: HM002
Program Level: Master Health Information Management
Institution Name: University of Pittsburgh
Mailing Address: School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Department Of Health Information Management 6051 Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (412) 383-6650
Website: <https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/him>

INSTITUTION

Type: Public
Department: Health Information
Academic Calendar: Semester
Highest Degree: PhD
Content Delivery: Two degree path options online or campus

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Name: Valerie Watzlaf, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
Title: Department Chair
Mailing Address: School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Health Information Systems 6051 Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (412) 383-6753
Email: valgeo@pitt.edu

PROGRAM DEAN

Name: Anthony Delitto, PT, PhD, FAPTA
Title: Dean And Professor
Mailing Address: University Of Pittsburgh School Of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, 4029 Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (412) 383-6630
Email: delitto@pitt.edu

INSTITUTION CEO/PRESIDENT

Name: Patrick Gallagher, PhD
Title: Chancellor And Chief Executive Officer

INSTITUTION CEO/PRESIDENT

Mailing Address: University of Pittsburgh 107 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (412) 624-4200
Email: mar6@pitt.edu

DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Name: N/A
Title: N/A
Mailing Address: N/A
Phone: N/A
Email: N/A

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

Change	Date	Description
Program Director	1/1/2022	Valerie Watzlaf will retire on December 31, 2021, and Dilhari DeAlmeida will be the new program director on Jan 1, 2022.
Content Delivery	8/1/2019	We have added an online delivery for this option. We have also decreased the number of credits to 36 credits with an updated curriculum based on the feedback received from our advisory committee.

Curriculum

GENERAL

Is a project required in order to complete the program?:

Yes

Project description:

All students in the HIM program are required to complete an internship or capstone project and both require a minimum contribution of 180 hours of work. The capstone project and internship are immersive experiences that connect the student's academic learning to real-world training and will advance their career goals in the field of HIM. By actively engaging in an external learning environment, you can apply and advance what you are learning in the classroom.

Capstone Project Objectives:

- Provide the student an opportunity to conduct research, perform a scholarly review, or complete an independent project on a topic related to their interest and career goals.
- Provide the student with a personalized learning experience that relates to the program goals and student's curiosity and meet some of the HIM Graduate competencies where appropriate.

Please note, before graduation, students are required to

GENERAL

demonstrate a body of knowledge in math statistics, computer programming (HI-2020), anatomy, and physiology, medical terminology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology (HI 2011)

Does the program have a research track?: No
 Number of credit hours needed to complete the program: 36

COURSES

Course	Credit Hrs	PPE Hrs
HI 2011: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, And Medical Terminology (Spring)	3	0
HI 2020: Practical Statistics & Programming Using Python And R (Fall, Spring, Summer)	3	0
HI 2210: Health Information And The Health Care System (Fall, Spring, Summer)	3	0
HI 2230: Financial Management And Health Care Reimbursement (Fall)	3	0
HI 2231: Talent Management And Human Resources (Spring)	3	0
HI 2250: Foundations Of Health Informatics (Fall and Spring)	3	0
HI 2410: Health Vocabulary, Terminology & Classification Systems (Fall and Spring)	3	0
HI 2451: Database Design And Big Data Analytics (Spring)	3	0
HI 2452: Digital Health (Spring)	3	0
HI 2632: Leadership And Project Management (Spring and Summer)	3	0
HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer)	3	180
HI 2450: Security, Privacy & Legal Issues Of HIS (Fall)	3	0

Faculty

GENERAL

Do any faculty members teach in other programs?: No
 Does the program director get release time?: Yes
 Description of program director release time: Yes, the program director does get release time from teaching courses to devote to administrative and leadership responsibilities.
 Do the faculty members get release time?: No

FACULTY MEMBERS

Name	Status	Rank	Highest Degree	Courses
------	--------	------	----------------	---------

Name	Status	Rank	Highest Degree	Courses
Andi Saptono, PhD	Full Time	Assistant Professor	PhD	HI 2020: Practical Statistics & Programming Using Python And R (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2250: Foundations Of Health Informatics (Fall and Spring); HI 2451: Database Design And Big Data Analytics (Spring); HI 2452: Digital Health (Spring); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
August Turano, PhD	Adjunct	Assistant Professor	PhD	HI 2451: Database Design And Big Data Analytics (Spring);
Bambang Parmanto, PhD	Full Time	Professor	PhD	HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2020: Practical Statistics & Programming Using Python And R (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2250: Foundations Of Health Informatics (Fall and Spring);
Dilhari DeAlmeida, PhD, RHIA	Full Time	Associate Professor	PhD	HI 2210: Health Information And The Health Care System (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2250: Foundations Of Health Informatics (Fall and Spring); HI 2410: Health Vocabulary, Terminology & Classification Systems (Fall and Spring); HI 2452: Digital Health (Spring); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
Kimberly Peterson, PhD, RHIA	Full Time	Assistant Professor	PhD	HI 2011: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, And Medical Terminology (Spring); HI 2231: Talent Management And Human Resources (Spring); HI 2632: Leadership And Project Management (Spring and Summer); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
Leming Zhou, PhD, DSc	Full Time	Associate Professor	PhD	HI 2450: Security, Privacy & Legal Issues Of HIS (Fall); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
Patricia Anania-firouzan, MSIS, RHIA	Full Time	Assistant Professor	Masters	HI 2210: Health Information And The Health Care System (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2230: Financial Management And Health Care Reimbursement (Fall); HI 2410: Health Vocabulary, Terminology & Classification Systems (Fall and Spring); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
Suzanne Paone, PhD, DHA, MBA	Adjunct	Assistant Professor	PhD	HI 2452: Digital Health (Spring); HI 2632: Leadership And Project Management (Spring and Summer);

Name	Status	Rank	Highest Degree	Courses
Valerie Watzlaf, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA	Full Time	Associate Professor	PhD	HI 2450: Security, Privacy & Legal Issues Of HIS (Fall); HI 2020: Practical Statistics & Programming Using Python And R (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2210: Health Information And The Health Care System (Fall, Spring, Summer); HI 2670: Health Informatics Capstone/internship (Fall, Spring, Summer);
William Thompson, MBA, MHA	Adjunct	Instructor	Masters	HI 2230: Financial Management And Health Care Reimbursement (Fall);

Admission Enrollment

ADMISSION ENROLLMENT

Enrollments received:	16
Enrollments accepted:	16
Acceptance rate:	100.00%
Enrollments accepted and enrolled:	16
Enrollments accepted and enrolled rate:	100.00%
Do the program require entrance exam scores?:	No
Does the program have rolling admissions?:	Yes

ENROLLMENT DETAILS

	Seated	Online
Average class size	10	10
Max enrollment allowed per course	25	25

ENROLLMENT DISTRIBUTION

	Full Time	Part Time	Total	% of Total
Students	6	10	16	100.00%
Graduates	2	0	2	12.50%
Attrition	0	0	0	0.00%
Progression	4	10	14	87.50%

ATTRITION DISTRIBUTION

	Full Time	Part Time
Academic reasons	0	0
Non-academic reasons	0	0
Unknown reasons	0	0

Comments

GRADUATE PROGRESSION DISTRIBUTION

	Full Time	Part Time
Average number of months to complete the program	12	18
How many students graduated within the average number of months of completion?	2	0
Completion rate	100.00%	0.00%

GRADUATE DIVERSITY

GENDER

Female: 0
 Male: 2
 Other gender identity: 0

ETHNICITY

Hispanic: 0
 American Indian: 0
 Alaska Native: 0
 Asian: 0
 Black or African-American: 1
 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 0
 White or Caucasian: 1
 Other: 0
 Unknown race/ethnicity: 0

GRADUATE DISTRIBUTION

Employed within one year: 2
 Already employed in health care profession: 0
 Already employed in non-health care profession: 0
 Employed in health care: 2
 Employed in non-health care: 0
 Pursuing further education: 0
 Not seeking employment or further education: 0
 Unknown: 0

GRADUATE SURVEY

Contacted: 2
 Responded: 2
 Satisfied: 2

GRADUATE SURVEY

Analysis: We received a 100% response rate and 100% satisfaction. We do understand that we only have 2 graduates for this time period.

Further information from the graduate and employer survey is described below:

Graduates stated that they are satisfied with their present employment and the overall program experience. Comments from the graduates included student empowerment and very competent faculty.

Feedback from one employer rated the graduate the highest score on the overall quality of the graduate of this program. Skills that were listed as very positive include: Strong technical knowledge with a well-rounded understanding of the US healthcare system; Solid interpersonal skills; demonstrates the ability to work as a teammate and establish relationships. Even though this student already had some experience in the field prior to his graduation from Pitt it is clear the program expanded his knowledge/technical expertise and reinforced his ability work within a larger healthcare ecosystem.

We also conduct final evaluations with employers on the graduate's internship. From that assessment, we found that both graduates received excellent on their final evaluation.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM GET FEEDBACK ABOUT ITS GRADUATES AND THE PROGRAM ITSELF?

Employer survey: Yes
Advisory committee: Yes
Professionals: Yes
Intern/Capstone / Professional Practice site managers or supervisors: Yes
Other: Yes

Description of other feedback: If we have not heard from a student directly through our student and employer surveys we also search on LinkedIn or emails that students may have sent the faculty/advisors to determine if they are employed and where they are working.

If yes to any, describe how the information is or will be used and indicate when the feedback was provided: We send out surveys to all employers of our graduates and use their feedback to enhance our curriculum and course content. We meet with our advisory committee at least annually and we use their feedback and advice to work with our students on projects and internships as well as to improve the quality of our course content. We always seek out additional professionals in the field of health information management and have them provide lectures, assignments, projects etc. that can enhance the learning experience of all of our students. We require that our internship site supervisors provide a midterm and final evaluation of the student that we then use as the feedback we share with the student and to enhance the quality of our curriculum and course content.

If no to all, describe what feedback outreach method the

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM GET FEEDBACK ABOUT ITS GRADUATES AND THE PROGRAM ITSELF?

program does use. If no outreach, describe why.:

Certification

GENERAL

Certification:	RHIA
Exam Period:	8/1/2019 - 7/31/2020
Total number of first time test takers:	2
Total number of first time test takers that passed:	2
Total number of first time test takers that failed:	0
Pass rate:	100.00%
Fail rate:	0.00%
Total %:	100.00%

Comments

Goals

PROGRAM GOAL

Description:	The program's mission and goals are outcome-focused and relevant to the mission of the sponsoring educational institution. The program must assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of the curriculum, with the results of the program assessment used as the basis for ongoing planning and program improvement.
Measured target outcome:	The measured target outcome is to ensure that 100% of the AHIMA competencies at the specific Bloom's level and student learning outcomes are addressed and achieved through our curriculum. Each term the curriculum will be evaluated for effectiveness in relation to the educational competencies. Every year the review per term will be summarized and reviewed as well to determine if the competencies are addressed and learning outcomes measured. We have transitioned 100% of our curriculum to the AHIMA 2018 curricular competencies.
Steps to achieve:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every faculty member (full-time and adjunct) is provided with all of the AHIMA required competencies.2. The chair and the faculty as a whole, determine which course will address the specific competency and the faculty determine which courses will be the primary course to cover that specific domain, subdomain, and competency. Secondary courses were also identified and recorded along with the primary course on an Excel spreadsheet.3. Every course is reviewed every term by the faculty member teaching the course. Course revisions are made as needed so that we meet the stated goal and that the curriculum content is current and relevant to our audience. Faculty, employers, internship directors, guest speakers from the HIM community, advisory board members all provide feedback on the course content so that current and effective changes can be made when needed to the curriculum.

PROGRAM GOAL

4. The department chair meets with the faculty for annual performance reviews in May/June of each year. Course syllabi, student evaluations of teaching, as well as graduate, employer, and advisory member's feedback are all considered during these evaluations. Based on these meetings changes to the curriculum are made on a course by course basis.

Results/Analysis/Actions:

1. 100% of the AHIMA required entry-level competencies are included in the curriculum. This goal was met.

2. The term by term review as well as the annual performance reviews have resulted in the following curriculum/course content additions during this APAR timeframe:

data science/health informatics content

data analytics and genomic analysis

AI and machine learning

more project management skills and tools

statistics, python, R data analysis, and research specific to HIM

3. Completed faculty performance reviews are documented, signed by both the faculty and chair, and then submitted to the Dean.

4. Weekly faculty meetings provide an ongoing process to evaluate courses/curriculum, discuss feedback from students, faculty, advisory committee members, and other stakeholders, discuss graduate preparedness for employment and relevance of our curriculum to our communities of interest.

Person responsible:

Department Chair and Faculty

Time frame:

Term by term review; May/June Perf Evaluations; Weekly faculty meetings



October 10, 2016

Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
University of Pittsburgh
School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Dept of Health Information Management
6051 Forbes Tower
Pittsburgh, PA, 15260

Dear Program Director:

This letter serves as confirmation by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) that the masters' degree program in health information management offered by your institution, has completed the most recent 2016 Annual Program Assessment Report as required by the *CAHIIM Accreditation Standards*. The APAR Report was accepted as submitted, and the health information management program as referenced above remains in good standing and has maintained continuing accreditation.

The Commission recognizes you and your colleagues for your commitment to continuous quality improvement in higher education, as demonstrated by your participation in program accreditation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Dixon-Lee'.

Claire Dixon-Lee, PhD, RHIA, CPH, FAHIMA
Executive Director, CAHIIM



October 9, 2002

Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Health Information Management
University of Pittsburgh
6051 Forbes Tower
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Mervat:

On behalf of the Council on Accreditation of the American Health Information Management Association, I am pleased to inform you of its vote on June 14, 2002 to award approval to the Masters of Science in Health and Rehabilitation Science Program at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

The recent peer review conducted by AHIMA's Education/Accreditation staff and the Council on Accreditation recognizes the program's compliance with the established approval criteria. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program is scheduled to occur in June 2005.

The Council on Accreditation commends you and your colleagues for your commitment to the development of a quality graduate program, as demonstrated by your participation in the approval process.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Garrie, MPA, RHIA
Director, Education and Accreditation

cc: Clifford E. Brubaker, PhD, Dean