

## Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education

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*CAHIIM View* shares news, viewpoints, information and updates from the realm of accreditation and academe. A copy of each issue is archived on the CAHIIM website for your reference. We look forward to your comments and questions. If you prefer to unsubscribe and not receive CAHIIM View please e-mail to [info@cahiim.org](mailto:info@cahiim.org).



### Message from Mervat Abdelhak PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA, CAHIIM Chair

As 2014 progresses forward the CAHIIM Board and Commissioners are ready to serve in order to advance and guide the direction of the CAHIIM organization as it provides a value-added service to all of its stakeholders.

Since CAHIIM's incorporation, January 3, 2011, and its recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) on September 24, 2012, the CAHIIM Board and its staff have been working diligently to:

- Expand CAHIIM's leadership position as a CHEA recognized Health Informatics and Information Management accreditation organization;
- Advance high quality program accreditation services through continuous quality improvement; and
- Foster new partnerships with stakeholders.

We can all agree that higher education, professional communities, as well as accreditation organizations, are faced with change, disruptions to the way we operate, as well as innovative solutions that need to be tested and evaluated. The focus on outcomes, answering questions, like what and how much students are learning or whether students have the competencies to succeed in the workplace, testing new educational technologies, or developing rating systems and



making accreditation results more transparent, are but some of the changes we must all work together to address and manage.

We want to assure you that CAHIIM continues to be responsive to these changes with agility and quality embedded at every level of our operation in order to better serve you and all our stakeholders.

The 2014 CAHIIM Board and Commissioners are:

- Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA—Chair
- Bonnie Cassidy, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, FHIMSS—Chair Elect
- Steven J. Steindel, PhD, FACMI—Immediate Past Chair
- Polly Cathcart, MMSc, MT(ASCP)SC—Secretary and Public Member
- Hertencia Bowe, MSHA, RHIA
- Melanie Brodник, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
- John Holmes, PhD, FACMI
- Donald Kellogg, PhD, RHIA, CPHER, FAHIMA
- Karen Scott, MEd, RHIA, CCS-P, CPC
- Rosemary Walker, DDS, MS, MBA, MEd, RHIA
- Judith J. Warren, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN, FACMI
- Melinda Wilkins, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
- Lynette M. Williamson, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CPC, FAHIMA

We are proud of our volunteers who represent health information management and health informatics education and practice, and willingly continue to serve on the CAHIIM Corporate Board of Directors and Commission. CAHIIM holds two in-person meetings each year and 4–6 conference call meetings annually. We continually strive to address the issues you face in developing and maintaining quality academic programs in these challenging times in higher education.

I invite you to visit us in our exhibit booth at the forthcoming AHIMA Assembly on Education Symposium in Chicago (July 26-30), the AHIMA National Convention in San Diego, CA (September 27–October 1) and the AMIA Annual Conference (November 14–19) in Washington, DC.

**We wish you a successful 2014!**

Dr. Abdelhak is Department Chair of the Health Information Management Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The University of Pittsburgh's HIM Department prepares undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students. Dr. Abdelhak is a past president of AHIMA (2005), Distinguished Member (2009), and recipient of the Literary Award (1996).



## Annual Program Assessment Report (APAR)

CAHIIM has contracted with Indigo Interactive, Inc. to design a new annual program assessment report (APAR) online application to continue the process of program monitoring and assessment of outcomes for all accredited health information management and health informatics programs. Based on the many comments received in recent surveys of programs and suggestions by faculty and administration, we anticipate the design and launch of a new, state-of-the-art, interactive APAR that will support efficient data collection and information that you can use for program improvements and within your institution.

The new APAR will be delivered in summer 2014 with online instructions and demonstrations at the Assembly on Education Symposium July 26–30, 2014 in Chicago. Details and open date will be conveyed when confirmed and we require all programs to retain the usual retrospective program metrics previously collected in our legacy APAR system for the academic year September 2012-August 2013. The CAHIIM staff will address your specific questions in July at the AOE Symposium in Chicago.

## 2011 Deadline for Accredited Programs

As a reminder, all CAHIIM accredited undergraduate programs must comply with the 2012 CAHIIM Accreditation Standards for Associate Degree and Baccalaureate Degree HIM Programs and the 2011 Curriculum Requirements by the previously announced August 1, 2014 deadline. For guidance reference the frequently asked questions posted on the website under [Standards and Curricula](#).

## The New 2014 HIM Competencies

Every program that is accredited or seeking accreditation must begin discussions with administration, faculty and the advisory board, regarding a process to assess your program's curriculum and faculty expertise against the revised 2014 AHIMA Foundation Council for Excellence in Education (CEE) 2014 HIM Competencies as displayed in the new associate, baccalaureate and master's degree Health Information Management curriculum maps. Programs are encouraged to access and use the CEE resources including the toolkit, webinars, regional meetings and other resources provided throughout this year. In addition, faculty should prepare personal professional development plans to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively design content and teach to the new competencies. All HIM programs must be teaching to the 2014 HIM Competencies by August 1, 2017 to produce graduates who are prepared for the health information workplace of the future. You will find all resources for the 2014 HIM Competencies including webinars, tools and other information on the [AHIMA Foundation website](#).





## Impact on Academic Programs of ICD-10-CM/PCS Delay

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) has determined that all certification exams will continue testing on ICD-9-CM until a new coding classification system is officially implemented.

In order to maintain the validity and legal defensibility of their exams, they cannot test on content that may or may not happen in the future. CCHIIM understands that students in many HIM educational programs were taught ICD-10-CM/PCS in anticipation of its implementation on October 1, 2014. Many programs are already taking action to provide additional education in ICD-9-CM where needed. AHIMA is also developing resources to assist both the educational programs and certification exam candidates.

You will want to consult the AHIMA website, E-alerts and Journal of AHIMA on a regular basis to obtain teaching resources and plan for the future, as well as watch the AHIMA Foundation website for specific educator announcements.

CAHIIM will expect programs to cover content on ICD-9-CM and introduce ICD-10-CM/PCS for today's job market and prepare graduates for the future. While there is no magic formula to approach delivery of this content given the delay, this is a good time to engage the program advisory committee and employer community in providing direction to your specific program on expectations for coding knowledge and skills for graduates now and in the near future.

It is also an opportunity to provide continuing education sessions for recent graduates to update their skills on ICD-9-CM. Programs currently in the accreditation process will be reviewed following the 2011 Curriculum Requirements for classification systems with the emphasis on ICD-9-CM.

## Pricing Change

An annual accreditation maintenance fee increase was approved by the CAHIIM Board of Directors effective for calendar year 2015 of \$2500. To maintain the high standards, quality tools and accreditation services that you, volunteers and staff expect and use, a financial commitment from each sponsoring academic institution with CAHIIM accredited programs is necessary. The Annual Accreditation Fee applies to all accredited programs at the time of invoicing in November/December of each year.



## Letters from our INFO Box

CAHIIM regularly receives many emails through [info@cahiim.org](mailto:info@cahiim.org)  
Below are some answers to common questions that you have asked.

**Does CAHIM have rules on how many credits can be transferred into our baccalaureate degree HIM program? My administration is asking.**

CAHIIM does not establish requirements for program credit hours and transfer credits or specify that they must come from a CAHIIM accredited program. Courses and transfer credit validation is determined by your institutional policies and practices, and specific program requirements within that framework. Be advised that credit transfer policies can vary depending on whether the program is housed in a private, public or for-profit institution or in some cases state higher education requirements. Check with your institutional administration and make sure your transfer or advanced placement policies are published and available to students in your program, and for any students considering enrollment in your program.

**We are interested in developing a new health information management program but have heard that CAHIIM will not accredit any new HIM programs in our state. Is this true?**

This is not true. CAHIIM does not have accreditation quota restrictions, (geographical or categorical). Restricting access to accreditation can be seen as creating a restraint of trade or commerce with the intent of reducing competition, which is an anti-trust violation. (Sherman Antitrust Act, 1890) CAHIIM does not restrict programs from seeking accreditation nor does it solicit programs to seek accreditation. The CAHIIM accreditation is a voluntary quality review process and a statement to the public that a program has undergone a rigorous evaluation process to ensure that the program offered meets established Standards.

**With all of the new groups and acronyms related to HIM education, how do we know whom to contact for specific education-related issues?**

A brief summary of each group follows. Educators should go to these websites for the most up to date information and contact details.





## The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM)

CCHIIM governs the certification exams including the RHIT, RHIA, coding and other certifications. Questions on exam eligibility, content, exam score reports, or corrections to your program's score reports should be directed to the AHIMA Certification department.

## The Council for Excellence in Education (CEE)

CEE, through its many volunteers and committees drives the AHIMA Reality 2016 initiative, provides and updates the competencies, curriculum models, faculty resources, the Academic Advisor newsletter, and manages the Assembly on Education Symposium.

## The AHIMA Foundation

The AHIMA Foundation serves the profession through donations that support student scholarships, conducts and funds research, publishes the online *Educational Perspectives in Health Informatics* and *Information Management* journals, manages the student scholarship program, and delivers the Professional Certificate Approval Program( PCAP) for coding programs.

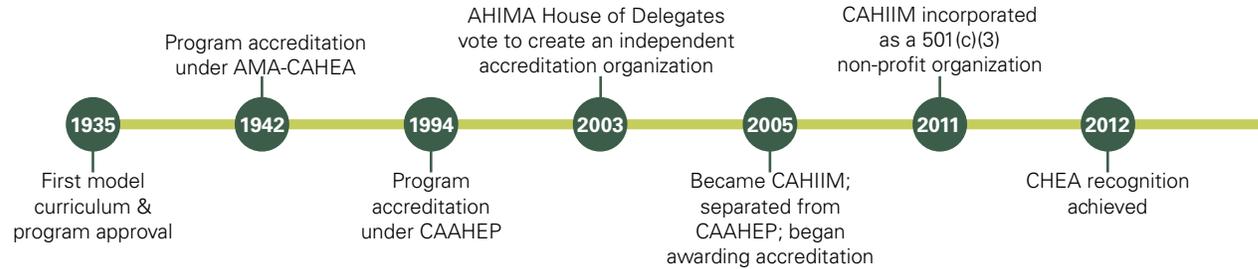
## The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)

CAHIIM conducts accreditation of degree granting programs in health information management at the associate, baccalaureate and master's degree levels and health informatics programs at the master's degree level. CAHIIM also conducts the annual program assessment report for maintenance of accreditation, offers workshops, program management advisement, and periodic surveys and reports on quality education issues. Questions on CAHIIM accreditation should be addressed to [info@cahiim.org](mailto:info@cahiim.org)



# Accreditation History in Health Information Management

## CAHIIM Historical Timeline



How well do you know your health information management accreditation history? The professional association was founded in 1928. By 1935 the leadership had determined that a formal curriculum model for medical record librarians was needed. The plan included prerequisites of application, the length of courses, and procedures to follow for official program approval. The first four programs were hospital-based and were approved by the American Association of Medical Record Librarians (AAMRL):

- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
- Rochester General Hospital, Rochester, New York
- St. Mary’s Hospital, Duluth, Minnesota
- St. Joseph’s Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

By 1942 the inspection process and confirmation of accreditation had moved to the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, which later developed into the Council for Allied Health Education Accreditation (CAHEA). In 1994 CAHEA was closed and a new commission was formed for allied health programs, the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

AHIMA volunteers participated in the AHIMA Council on Accreditation and its various predecessor forms, and conducted accreditation through the CAAHEP organization which was the final accreditation authority. In 2003 the AHIMA House of Delegates determined that the profession of health information management was strong, unique and should be able to conduct and confirm final accreditation actions for all HIM programs and incorporate within its scope the emerging field of health informatics. The Council on Accreditation became CAHIIM and a decision was made to formally withdraw from the CAAHEP organization in 2005. In March 2005 all currently accredited HIM programs were transferred to the CAHIIM accreditation organization. In seeking external review and recognition of its accreditation processes and authority, CAHIIM sought the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition. During this process it was determined that CAHIIM should form a separate non-profit corporation and seek IRS tax status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. This occurred January 2011 and CHEA recognition was conferred in 2012. CAHIIM continues today to focus on maintaining quality assurance through the academic programs within its scope.



## CAHIIM Events Calendar

May 20-21	<b>AMIA Academic Forum</b> University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
July 26	<b>CAHIIM Accreditation Workshop</b> Palmer House Hotel Chicago, IL
July 27	<b>CAHIIM at the AHIMA Assembly on Education Symposium</b> Palmer House Hotel Chicago, IL (2–5 PM)
July 28-30	<b>Exhibit at the AHIMA Assembly on Education Symposium</b> Palmer House Hotel Chicago, IL
September 27	<b>CAHIIM Accreditation Workshop</b> San Diego, CA
September 28–Oct. 1	<b>Exhibit at the AHIMA National Convention</b> San Diego, CA
November 14–19	<b>Exhibit at the AMIA Annual Meeting</b> Washington, DC





