All About GE Requirements
By: Gwyer Schuyler, Club Advisor

If you are pursuing the HIT or CIM Associate of Science Degree, then you must complete both Department requirements and General Education requirements. General Education (GE) requirements cover such courses as English and Math, History, Science, etc. You can find the GE listings on our FAQ page – www.sbcc.edu/hit/faq.php

Students often think that if they already have an Associate or Bachelor's degree, that their GE requirements are automatically met. Not true! I wish it was that easy. We still need to evaluate your previous coursework toward SBCC’s requirements. The steps to receive an evaluation are outlined at www.sbcc.edu/hit/transcriptevaluations.php.

All GE courses can be taken online through SBCC, with the possible exception of English and Math. For English and Math, I recommend that you complete those courses through your local community college (please be sure to email me with course descriptions to get approval of these courses before you take them). NOTE: While SBCC offers ENG 110 and MATH 107 fully online, you must take SBCC’s Assessment test in-person and place into these courses in order to enroll in them. While I know of some distance students who have made the trek to SBCC to take the Assessment tests, it’s risky to do so, because if you place into a lower level English and/or Math course that is not offered fully online, you will still have to go through your local college to complete these requirements.

Occasionally, SBCC’s GE requirements change. We saw a major change in the GE requirements in Fall 2009 when the Math requirement was increased from Elementary Algebra (MATH 100) to Intermediate Algebra (MATH 107). Remember that if you stay enrolled each Fall and Spring semester, we will be able to honor the requirements that were in place when you started the program. If you take a Fall or Spring semester off, when you return, you will be subject to any new Department or GE requirements that have been put in place.

As always, feel free to email me with any questions that you may have. schuyler@sbcc.edu

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What To Do If You Can’t Get Into Classes For Your Major

By: Gwyer Schuyler, Club Advisor

Are you a new student or in your first semester? There is a real possibility that you may not get seats in all of the major courses that you had hoped.

“You should make sure to enroll in SOMETHING!”

If you are not able to register in your desired courses on your priority registration date, then you should make sure to enroll in SOMETHING!

Here are some courses to consider: Check for available seats in BMS 146 and COMP 101, which are required courses for HIT/CIM/Coding. MGMT 101 is a course needed toward HIT and CIM. Beyond those, if you still need courses, consider COMP 120, 144A, PD 100, or GE classes (see my other article for more info). You may want to do a search of all fully online courses by selecting Internet/Web as the Instructional Method when searching the schedule – www.sbcc.edu/classes.

It is a department policy that students will not be added into HIT/CIM courses once the semester is underway. Also, individual instructors in the HIT/CIM Department do not give out add codes. The only exceptions to these policies are in cases in which a student is nearing graduation yet still is unable to get into the final required courses. In those cases, email me and I can help! schuyler@sbcc.edu

Some courses have formal waitlists within Pipeline. Be sure to review the details of how these waitlists work: www.sbcc.edu/admissions/waitlists.

If a course is already full when your priority registration date comes, you should continue to monitor the schedule of classes throughout the registration period. If a student drops a course, then a seat will open up, and if your timing is just right, you could get it! Persistence in checking the schedule can pay off!

Test Taking Resources

By: Anthony Pineda

Indeed, the online experience at SBCC is unique. Distance learning has allowed instructors to utilize creative new tools and new technologies in order to assess what we, as students, have learned in our courses. For example, I completed an online physical education course that satisfied a general education requirement; the midterm and final for the course involved mailing the instructor a video tape demonstrating the various self-defense techniques I learned by watching an instructional DVD. Other online courses are more “traditional” with their exams and require a “proctor” to administer a test in an environment approved by the instructor (e.g., libraries or schools). For more info on proctoring at SBCC, click http://www.sbcc.edu/distanceeducation/proctoringinfo.php.

Your first concern when taking online exams should be to make sure you are able to navigate the technology required by the course. This would involve making sure your computer, especially at home, is technically capable (e.g., cache, security settings, monitor/screen display, internet connection speed). Since final exams are right around the corner and scheduled for December 5-10, I recommend checking out SBCC’s Test Taking Tips, <http://international.sbcc.edu/studentlife/calendar/event/?e=571>.

If test taking causes you anxiety, try the Test Taking Skills and Recommendations website <http://www.sbcc.edu/clrc/test-taking.php> that includes general information on essay tests, multiple choice tests, and Math.

The Study Guides and Strategies Website <http://www.studygs.net/shared/testing.htm> has an excellent page in order to prepare you for tests that require memorization and thinking. Be sure to check your course syllabus for extra credit opportunities or you can email your instructor directly to find out what your options are. For example, I was once able to bump my final grade from a “C” to a “B” by writing and extra credit essay. Just make sure you give yourself enough time before the final examination and be mindful of important cut-off dates.

“YOUR FIRST CONCERN WHEN TAKING ONLINE EXAMS SHOULD BE ... NAVIGATE THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED”
The National Cancer Registrar Association’s (NCRA) “primary focus is education and certification with the goal to ensure all cancer registry professionals have the required knowledge to be superior in their field.” The website www.ncra-usa.org provides details about the organization’s offerings, some of which are included below.

Cost of a NCRA student membership is $40 annually. If you are in need of the Cancer Registry Management Principles & Practice textbook, it would benefit any student to explore NCRA membership. The cost at SBCC bookstore was unavailable at the time of this writing. However with a NCRA membership it’s $163 (non-members pay $189), which in August was substantially less than SBCC’s price. The order is placed directly to the publisher and the discount is applied when member ID# is provided.

NCRA members benefits include:

- **Significant savings** at NCRA conferences, the CTR exam and NCRA store products such as publications, manuals, workbooks, conference materials, merchandise, a variety of educational tools.

- **Peer Networking Opportunities:** Connect with the largest network of cancer registry professionals through a variety of different resources including NCRA’s online Membership Directory and NCRA’s interactive Online Discussion Forums.

- **Subscription to the quarterly Journal of Registry Management:** Includes peer-reviewed topics related to the management of health registries and the collection, management and use of cancer, trauma, AIDS and other health registry data.

- **Subscription to the quarterly official NCRA Newsletter, “The Connection”**

Whether you are new to Health Information Management or Cancer Information Management field or you have been in this arena for some time, you can benefit from AHIMA and/or NCRA memberships in a variety of ways.

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**The Benefits of Joining AHIMA and NCRA: Student Perspective**

*By: Gagandeep Bal and Marcia Coye*

| As a HIT/CIM major, one can literally gain from joining the AHIMA and NCRA. What follows are some of the advantages from student perspectives. |
| AHIMA’s Mission: |
| **AHIMA leads the health informatics and information management community to advance professional practice and standards.** |
| AHIMA student membership cost $35 per year. |
| Journal of AHIMA, an award winning magazine gives latest industry news, trends and updates every month. AHIMA offers a variety of benefits for students cheaper books, webinars and guidance in career selection are a few to name. On their new website [http://www.HICareers.com](http://www.HICareers.com) which is dedicated to academic planning, career development and job resources. A student can find information on different jobs available, in addition a student can also find out information on different programs HIM (health information management) or HI (health information) program. This website also offers online help in launching first job. Most importantly this website provide detailed information on the current salary ranges by the geographical region and credential. |
| The other beneficial part of AHIMA student membership is that it lets students connect to others in the HIM field by their “Network on the Communities of Practice (CoP).” Where the student can find valuable insight into the profession, ask questions, connect to hundreds of professionals from same field and make valuable connections. Following video explains the use of CoP for AHIMA member. [http://www.ahima.org/help/copvideos.aspx](http://www.ahima.org/help/copvideos.aspx) |

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SBCC - HCSPC
“The Best Club On and Off Campus”

Santa Barbara City College
Attn: HIM/CIM Department
721 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Email: sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com

Club description: To provide an avenue for HIT/CIM students to network and support each other in their academic and career pursuits. Because the HIT/CIM programs are fully online, students have limited opportunities to meet and connect with other students. This club will use web-based technologies to create an online student community of support.

What’s New?
SBCC’s HIT CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC) Exclusive Google Group!!
Contributed By: Marcia Coye (HCSPC Advisory Committee Member)

The HIT CIM Student Peer Club is excited to introduce a new Google Group! Please take a moment and join today! The Group was established to provide a forum for all students (past and present) to share experiences, provide support to each other, and to serve as a mechanism to disseminate industry specific information. We look forward to everyone’s comments, information, questions and/or feedback on the Group board. What questions do you have? Post a topic!! Have information to share? Post a topic!!

You may request to join from the Group page.
http://groups.google.com/group/sbcss-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc?hl=en
OR
https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/sbcss-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc

HIT CIM students have unique opportunities to explore the use of various technologies; expanding upon our exclusive online learning experience. Utilization of our Google Group will enrich our online experience and allow us to connect with each other beyond the Moodle classroom, in a lounge-style forum.

Join Google Group and “connect... beyond the Moodle classroom”

Directions for navigation to the Group:

From Google Homepage:
1. With Google homepage open go to top left of page.
2. Click "more" for options
   ("more" is last item on right)
3. Click "groups" - 3rd from bottom of list
4. Type: SBCC’s HIT CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC) into the search field.
This will navigate you to the Group page.

From Gmail account:
1. With Gmail open go to top left of bar above "GMAIL" icon & open search field.
2. Click "more" for options.
3. Click "Group" (appearing as 1st option).
This will navigate you to the Group page.

****You may have difficulty accessing the Group from Pipeline Gmail accounts****
(In this case please follow instructions above "From Google Homepage")