Apply NOW for Financial Aid for the 2013-14 School Year

Go to the SBCC Financial Aid website for instructions on how to apply - www.sbcc.edu/financialaid. Apply by March 1, 2013 in order to have priority consideration.

Changes in Eligibility Requirements for the CCS/CCS-P Certification Exams

As of January 1, 2013, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has implemented new eligibility requirements for the Certified Coding Specialist (CCS and CCS-P) Certification exams.

Students will need to meet one of the following:

1. BY CREDENTIAL: Hold the RHIA, RHIT or CCS/CCS-P credential already OR
2. BY EDUCATION: Complete a coding training program (SBCC's Medical Coding Specialist Certificate) OR
3. BY EXPERIENCE: Have a minimum of two years of coding experience OR
4. BY CREDENTIAL+EXPERIENCE: Hold the CCA plus one year of coding experience OR
5. OTHER: Hold a different coding credential (such as CPC) plus have one year of coding experience.

Previously, AHIMA only required a high school diploma or equivalent for the CCS and CCS-P Certification exams, and only made recommendations about the level of experience for the exams.

With these new requirements, we anticipate even more students interested in SBCC's Medical Coding Specialist Certificate!

No changes were made in eligibility requirements for the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) exam. To be eligible for the CCA, you still just need your high school diploma or equivalent. There are expanded recommendations for preparation for the CCA, which you can review at http://www.ahima.org/downloads/pdfs/certification/CCA_CCS_CCS-P_exam_eligibility_updates.pdf

The above link outlines all of the changes and provides an email for any questions.

Finding Time for Professional Development

"We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change. And the most pressing task is to teach people how to learn." - Pete Drucker, management consultant and writer

How often do you set aside time to learn new skills? Chances are, not as often as you'd like! If you're like many people, you're keen to learn, but you struggle to find the time. So, how can you make this time, develop your knowledge, and increase your value, both to your organization and to future employers?

Personal Learning Strategies

There's no doubt that it's important to make your own professional development a priority. But how do you find time to do it?

Please see Professional Development on Page 3
Health Information Professionals Week 2013

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) will honor and celebrate health information professionals during the 24th annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week March 17–23, 2013. This year’s theme is “Accurate Data, Excellent Care.”

“Health information management (HIM) professionals are a critical linchpin in our healthcare system, and the American Health Information Management Association is proud to recognize the contributions of these individuals,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “Our hope is Health Information Professionals Week will increase awareness of the vital role HIM professionals play in the success and efficiency of our healthcare system landscape.”

HIP Week 2013 will coincide with AHIMA’s Hill Day, an event where AHIMA members visit Capitol Hill and share the importance of advancing HIM. Data governance, privacy and security, and fraud and abuse concerns continue to be key issues for HIM professionals, and AHIMA is ready to provide guidance to HIM workers, consumers, and government leaders seeking counsel.

“As new technology and policies evolve, HIM professionals’ jobs have drastically changed over time, and they must adapt their skill set to ensure the best patient care and safety,” said Ms. Thomas Gordon. “‘Accurate Data, Excellent Care’ is not only a theme we recognize during this specific week, but one that is at the forefront of our daily work.”

Keeping data accurate and secure, while using it as an analytic tool, is one of the biggest challenges healthcare organizations face. While HIP Week acknowledges the past accomplishments of HIM professionals, future endeavors to properly use this data, as it exponentially grows over time, is equally recognized as it will shape future improvements in our healthcare system.

To provide greater public outreach for HIP Week, AHIMA will again partner with the Canadian Health Information Management Association to promote the shared goals of both organizations.

Press Release

National Cancer Registrars Week 2013

National Cancer Registrars Week (NCRW) is April 8-13, 2013. The 2013 theme is Cancer Registrars: Cornerstones of Care. The purpose of NCRW is to emphasize the foundation cancer registrars provide for cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Additional information, including ways to celebrate this important event, will be available in late February/early March.

References

Attention Clinician/Practitioner Consultants

The American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) has a “special offer” for students who have completed the Health IT Workforce Training Program. For $99, students who participated in any of the ONC/HHS-supported University-based Training Programs and Community College Training Programs can join the AMIA with “full membership privileges.” Regular member dues are $300 per calendar year.

Visit http://www.amia.org/special-offer for more information.
1. Set Learning Goals
If you don't recognize the importance of what you're doing, it will be easy to give self-development up whenever you're pressed for time or lacking energy and motivation.

So, your first step is to identify your learning objectives, and visualize how these will help you achieve the other professional goals that you've set. So, what do you want to get from your learning? And why are you making time to learn?

It's important to set SMART, realistic goals from the beginning, and to break these down into long- and short-term goals that you can add to your daily To-Do List or Action Program.

Then, use visualization techniques to create vivid mental images of how these learning activities are going to make your life better. Write these visualizations down to remind yourself why you are devoting time to this activity.

2. Identify Obstacles
Next, identify possible obstacles that might make it difficult to stick to a learning schedule, and come up with strategies to overcome them.

For instance, imagine that, over the coming week, you've committed to spending half an hour reading a book when you get home. One possible obstacle is that your kids may want to play with you as soon as you walk in the door. To overcome this, you'll need to explain to them why you need time to study alone. Promise them time as soon as you're finished, and then sit in a quiet room, so you won't be disturbed.

3. Think Small
Many of us assume that we'll need large chunks of time to devote to learning. However, short blocks of time can be just as effective, if you focus.

The key to learning effectively is to maximize the impact of every moment that you have available. Look at your To-Do List, and see what you can achieve in the time available. Make sure that you minimize distractions, even if you only have just 10 minutes free, and concentrate on what you're reading or learning.

Also, learn strategies such as speed reading, and efficient note-taking techniques like mind mapping, to make the most of your learning time.

4. Learn at Your Best
Many people schedule their learning for a time when they've completed everything else. However tempting this may be, think about how you feel when you've accomplished everything on your to-do list. You're usually exhausted, right?

Everyone has different peaks and valleys in their energy levels. It's important not to schedule learning, which requires a fresh, open mind, for the time of day when you have the smallest amount of energy.

Go through the possible obstacles that might prevent you from spending time on your learning, and write down the strategies that you'll use to overcome each one.

We Want to Hear from You!

Writing articles for the HCSPC monthly newsletter can reap many benefits. For example, it is always rewarding to see one's name in print and your peers learn who you are and your level of expertise. Article writers are always thinking and stretching their intellectual muscles and will be less likely to forget how to write all together. Writing an article for the student newsletter is also a great starting point to have other articles published in publications for professional associations like the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

We are always looking for material that is interesting, enlightening, thought provoking, and informative. We would like to encourage students to submit original articles on a variety of topics that represent health IT, cancer information management, or medical coding. This is an excellent opportunity to share your unique knowledge, expertise, and opinions with your peers and instructors.

Guidelines:
- Document references/resources following article closure.
- Graphics or pictures may be placed in the article. These should be original and the appropriate permission to print obtained from the copyright holder.
- When acronyms or abbreviations are used, include the full wording the first time it is used, listing the abbreviation/acronym in parentheses following.
- Double check the website URLs (links) to assure accuracy.
- Use spell check & check punctuation and grammar.
- If the article is a reprint article or if the article includes a graph, chart, or picture, whereby reprint permissions needs to be obtained, include the “permission to reprint” statement along with the article when submitted.
- Articles should be written in a common word processing program, such as Microsoft Word. Use a common font (Times New Roman or Arial) Font size 12 is preferred.

If you have questions or would like to submit an article, send us an email at sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com.
5. Make Learning a Habit
You'll only be able to sustain your learning if you make it a habit. Developing any habit takes work and self-discipline.

To build a habit, look at your schedule and see how you can work time for learning in every day. Could you get up an hour earlier, or learn on your lunch break? Could you study after everyone else has gone to bed? Take into account the energy levels we mentioned earlier.

Think of a reward that you can use to motivate yourself through, say, the next two weeks. This will help to keep you going when you don't feel like studying, or when you're tempted to skip a day because you want to do something else instead.

Once you've made it through the first two weeks, take time to congratulate yourself! That first step is always the hardest. Next, commit to spending the next 30 days learning every day. Reassess the time slots you've carved out for yourself: are they working? If not, what tasks could you move around to make learning more practical?

Remember, habits start out as little daily activities that you force yourself to do. They only become habits with time and persistence.

6. Choose the Right Learning Style
Do know how you learn best? For instance, some people learn and retain information best when they can read and take notes. Others are active learners; they need to learn by doing something themselves. Still others learn best when they're presented only with the facts and with none of the theory. It's important to identify your personal learning style, so that you can tailor your learning to fit what works best for you.

7. Collaborate
It's often easiest to learn in collaboration with others; after all, if you know that there are people who are always available if you need help or advice, you're more likely to turn to them instead of giving up. When you join a community that makes learning a priority, these people can also hold you accountable for your learning goals.

One of the best ways to do this is by joining a class or doing a course with others. However, you can also network on LinkedIn and Twitter to find other professionals in your industry who are interested in learning. (Remember, too, that the Mind Tools Club forums are always there for you when you're working on your career skills!)

You can also talk to colleagues to see if they routinely devote time to learning. If so, perhaps you could form a study group, or simply spend time reading or learning together?

8. Delegate Tasks
Your day is likely full of tasks that you're responsible for. So, how are you going to fit learning in?

Look at your professional and personal responsibilities to see if you can delegate any tasks to someone else, for example by giving new tasks to team members, or by hiring someone to clean your house. If you can clear even a half hour from your schedule, you can use this time to work on your learning goals.

References

Feature Article
United Coders of America

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) announced in a December 2012 press release that more than 500 members of the American College of Medical Coding Specialists (ACMCS) voted to join forces with AHIMA. The Physician Coding Specialist (PCS) and Facility Coding Specialist (FCS) were the credentials earned through the ACMCS. The certification and recertification of ACMCS members that hold these credentials will be handled by the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM).

The merger of the two organizations is not surprising given that they both have a shared commitment to coding and information management. The former ACMCS members joined AHIMA’s membership last December and will have access to tools and resources to help advance their careers. For more information about this merger, visit www.ahima.org/ACMCS.

References
American Health Information Management Association. (2012). ACMCS Members to Join AHIMA. Chicago: AHIMA.
Acronyms, Links, & Resources (Oh My!)

Advance for Health Information Professionals
Student & New Grad Center
http://health-information.advanceweb.com/Student-New-Grad-Center/default.aspx

American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)
http://www.aapc.com
Student Membership ($70.00)
Credentialing Information

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
http://www.ahima.org
Student Membership ($35.00)
https://www.ahimastore.org/ProductDetailMembership.aspx
Credentialing Information
http://www.ahima.org/certification/
HIM Career Map
http://hicareers.com/CareerMap%20Landing%20That%20First%20Job
http://hicareers.com/Toolbox/landingfirstjob.aspx
Health Information Careers Pathfinder
http://hicareers.com/pathfinder.swf

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
http://amia.org
Student Membership ($40.00)
http://www.amia.org/amia-membership

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDIF formerly AAMT)
http://www.abdm.org/
Student Membership ($55.00)
Credentialing Information

California Cancer Registrars Association (CCRA)
http://www.ccaregistrars.org/
Student Membership ($15.00)
http://ccaregistrars.web.com/public/Membership/application.doc

California eHealth Collaborative (CaeHC)
www.caech.org

California Health Information Association (CHIA)
http://californiahia.org
Student Membership ($20.00)
http://californiahia.org/join
CHIA Student Scholarships
http://californiahia.org/student-scholarships

California Healthcare Foundation
www.chcf.org
Health IT
http://www.chcf.org/topics/health-it
State of H.I.T. in California
http://www.chcf.org/publications/2011/05/health-information-technology-california

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics & Information Management Education (CAHIIM)
www.cahiim.org
What Students Should Know
www.cahiim.org/whatsyoushouldknow.html

Health 2.0
http://health2con.com

Health IT
www.healthit.gov
Blue Button
www.healthit.gov/bluebutton
Community College Consortia
http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/community-college-consortia

Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
http://www.himss.org
Student Membership ($30.00)
http://www.himss.org/ASP/individualHome.asp
Credentialing Information
http://himss.org/asp/CertificationHome.asp

HIT/CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC)
Online Membership Form
http://goo.gl/EpRp4
Newsletter Archives
http://www.sbcc.edu/hit/studentpeerclub.php
Facebook
http://facebook.com/hcspc2011
LinkedIn
http://la.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4408348
Blogger
http://sbcchcspc.blogspot.com
Google Group
http://goo.gl/0kf1

HIT Pro Exams
http://www.hitproexams.org

National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)
http://www.ncra-usa.org
Student Membership ($40.00)
http://www.ncra-usa.org/3a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3279
Credentialing Information
http://www.ctrexam.org/credential/index.htm

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov__home/1204

Professional Association of Healthcare Coding Specialists (PAHCS)
www.pahcs.org
Membership ($120.00)
http://www.sbc.edu/hit/hitcimacademicplanning.php

Santa Barbara City College
www.sbcc.edu
HIT/CIM Home Page
http://www.sbcc.edu/hit
ICD-10 FAQs
http://www.sbc.edu/hit/ICD-10.php
ICD-10 webinar (archive)
http://qoa.g/ShwR
Academic Planning
http://www.sbc.edu/hit/it/hitcimacademicplanning.php

State of California Office of Health Information Integrity
http://www.ohii.ca.gov/calohi/Home.aspx
ICD-10 Chapter I: Certain infectious and parasitic diseases

HEPATITIS TOXOPLASMOSIS
RABIES HELMINTHIASES
TRICHINELLOSIS HIV
SCABIES HERPANGINA
CANDIDIASIS CANDIDIASIS
PEDICULOSIS VARICELLA
MYCOSES CHLAMYDIAE
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

By Gagan Bal

The Santa Barbara City College HIT/CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC) is always seeking highly motivated students who are looking to complement their educational experience and help other students in the process. If you would like to become involved in the development, management, and administration of the HCSPC, you should consider becoming a part of our Club Advisory Committee.

We need enthusiastic and committed HIT/CIM and Medical Coding students to volunteer their time to accomplish club tasks. If you are interested in joining our Advisory Committee and would like to meet and get to know your peers, please contact me at sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com. Please include a short sentence about why you would like to join our team.

DISCUSS ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE IN OUR

HCSPC Google Group

Access Google Groups on your Android™ or Apple® iOS device by pointing your mobile browser to: http://goo.gl/0iKf1 or send the group an email at sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc@googlegroups.com.

Information about ICD-10 is here!

Like