The SBCC HIT Advisory Board was created as one of the accreditation requirements of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The board is made up of SBCC faculty members from the HIT department including Janet Robertson, our HIT program director, Denise Harrison, the HIT/CIM Dept Chair, and Betty Pazich, the Dean of Educational Programs, as well as health care providers and employers. The mission of the board is to monitor program and industry needs and expectations, develop and revise program goals and curriculum, and ensure the program is responsive to change. The board meets twice a year and is critical to the success of the HIT students and program at SBCC.

Recently, I was added as the student rep on the Advisory Board and participated in my first meeting. My role is to advise the board on the student perspective and let them know what is happening with our club. Based on this first meeting, there is a great deal I will need to learn about the inner workings of the SBCC HIT program and the many different committees and projects my fellow board members participate on but I was able to contribute some insight into the needs of the students. My goal is to be able to facilitate better dialogue between faculty and students and keep students advised on changes that may impact their education and/or career preparation and I hope to represent all of you well.

Here are two questions that I have been asked a lot lately related to the change from the ICD-9 to the ICD-10 coding classification system:

1. What's happening with the new ICD-10 Courses?

As you may be aware, the change in ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation in the US has been proposed to move from 2013 to 2014. This has not been confirmed and the final decision is expected by June 2012. Because we are in this limbo, our faculty has decided to offer two sections of HIT 200 and only one section of HIT 202 and 203 in the Fall. (HIT 200 covers ICD-9 and HIT 202 & 203 cover ICD-10).

According to Lynette Williamson, Medical Coding Specialist Program Director:

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Getting Creative In Making Experience

By DevanSafer

I would like to address an age old issue in the HIM industry: getting creative in racking up coding experience. You could call this a follow up to “First Job,” by Anthony Pineda last month. Every HIM student has trouble landing their first job because of the whole experience requirement. It’s a double edged sword because people need an opportunity to gain experience. However, in spite of this hurdle there is no reason to give up and take things lying down! So, what’s the solution? Perhaps, creativity is a solution to the problem. There are two things every coding student should work on creating: experience and networking.

How would a person go about creating experience? Perhaps the coding education could count as experience and here’s why; over the course of time at SBCC, every student has been training to become a coder by learning the relevant background information, how to code, and receiving hands on coding experience by coding medical records in the various classes. Additionally, I think HCSPC should create voluntary internships for those desiring extra experience. There must be some way we could mock and anonymous real medical records for students and graduates to code. If we could do so, it’d help current students and give newer students an early advantage to have that experience under their belts upon graduating. I also think these voluntary internships should be accessible to alumni. So, as they job search they can further their experience. Finally, one could volunteer in a hospital or apply for a different medical job, such as: a receptionist, front office person, back office person, medical assistant, or a coder for a billing company. As a volunteer, one could transition into a paid coder.

Also, those alternate positions could become stepping stones to coding positions in the future. Besides experience, networking is also helpful because knowing the right people can lead to opportunities in any industry. There are multiple ways to create networking: memberships with professional groups (AAPP, AHIMA, etc), volunteering at a hospital, in the HIM department; and building relationships with professors. Each pro-

FREE Career Prep Webinar Series

AHIMA is committed to the success of its student members and wants you to be prepared to find your Resumes for Results: Get That Interview! The webinar is facilitated by career coach Lyne Tumlinson, CAE who will share insights on writing resumes and cover letters. A critical part of landing that first HIM job. Current AHIMA student members with any questions regarding the Career Prep Webinar series, can contact Lisa Chernikoff. To find out how to become student member at AHIMA click here.
For HIT and Coding Students from Page 1

“. . . if a student is planning on graduating from HIT degree program or Medical Coding Specialist Program before 10/2013 (current date published by the Department of Health and Human Services); they will need to take HIT 200 (ICD-9-CM). If a student wishes to take HIT 202 and/or HIT 203 in Fall 2012 they can but they should note that the national coding and RHIT exams will not change to ICD-10-CM/PCS until the date that is finalized for US implementation by DHHS. If the US Date is moved to 10/2014 then that is when RHIT and coding certification exams will require ICD-10-CM/PCS knowledge.”

Bottom line is this: We don’t know for sure if ICD-10 will be implemented in 2013 or 2014. But it looks like it may be moved to 2014. The best bet for students is to take HIT 200 this Fall if you are trying to choose between HIT 200 versus 202 and 203. We will be able to guide you more clearly as soon as the final decision is made.

2. How do the ICD-10 course changes affect Certificate/Degree requirements and catalog rights?

Depending on the final US implementation date, current students who stay continuously enrolled each Fall and Spring forward until graduation will not be subject to the new requirements. New students beginning the year prior to the implementation date or students who take a Fall or Spring semester off will be subject to the new requirements. Email me if you have specific questions about your situation - schuyler@sbcc.edu

Getting Creative from Page 2

A professional group is full of professionals and hiring managers who one could build communication and relationships with. Professors in the coding industry should also have connections with professional coding jobs. Finally, volunteering at an HIM department can transition into a paid job. The employers already know you and trust you. So, it’s a lot easier for them to hire somebody they know. Any way you go about networking you can create connections in the job market, references to vouch for your character and people who can guide you through your path to your first coding job.

FREE Virtual Career Fair

www.himssvirtual.com/2012_careerfair/index.asp to register for this FREE event. The HIMSS Virtual Career Fair Attendee Guide helps you navigate all of the great resources and opportunities in this exciting online event. Take a few minutes to learn how job seekers with recruiters can easily create your nationwide. Click or go to www.himssvirtual.com/2012_careerfair/index.asp to register for this FREE event.
Attn: HIM/CIM Department  
721 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com

**HCSPC Google Group**

Just a reminder to check out our HCSPC Google Group by clicking [here](https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#!forum/sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc) or visiting https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#!forum/sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc

This is a venue for you, our club members, to talk about whatever it is that's important to you! Our club is made up of students of all ages and at all levels of the educational process, including many who have worked in the HIT/CIM/ Coding field, so we have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Ask questions about your educational plans or the job market, make new friends, network, tell us about something interesting you've read, complain about registration ... this is the spot. The more participants we have the more interesting and dynamic the conversations will be. You can search past postings, but if you want the opportunity to participate in new conversations as they come up, say "yes" to email notifications when you join. We look forward to hearing what you all have to say!

**DISCUSS FROM ANYWHERE**

Access Google Groups on your Android™ or Apple® iOS device by pointing your mobile browser to: [https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#!forum/sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc](https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#!forum/sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc) or send the group an email at sbccs-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspc@googlegroups.com

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**2012 HCSPC Admin Committee Members:**

**Academic Club Advisor:** Gwyer Schuyler

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