In 2012, the National Cancer Registrars Association’s (NCRA) Council on Certification initiated a Job Analysis of cancer registry professionals. A Job Analysis is an essential component of any credentialing program, and the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) credential is no exception. The Job Analysis is a scientific research study that seeks to outline the knowledge, skills, and abilities that define a profession and distinguishes it from others. The results are used to validate the content of a credentialing exam and to ensure it accurately reflects changes in the profession.

“NCRA’s Council on Certification is committed to ensuring the CTR exam accurately tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed of cancer registrars. As the professionals collecting the data that inform cancer treatment, prevention, and research programs, it is critical that the CTR credential continues to serve as the standard of professional excellence in the cancer registry field,” notes Debbie B. Chambers, CTR, Administrator of NCRA’s Council on Certification.

Conducted by Professional Examination Service, the 2012 Job Analysis identified essential job tasks of cancer registry professionals across a range of registry roles and settings and outlined the knowledge bases needed to accurately perform those required tasks. The results of the 2012 study yielded a set of recommendations that the Council will implement beginning

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Convention Season

CHIA

The annual Convention and Exhibit for the California Health Information Association (CHIA) is, literally, right around the corner. This year’s event will take place in Palm Desert, California from Sunday, June 9 through Wednesday, June 12, 2013.

According to the 2013 Program Brochure, this year’s Convention and Exhibit will be “California’s premier event for health information management professionals on the cusp of unprecedented change.” Other hot topics like ICD-10, EHR, CDI, and Meaningful Use will also be addressed.

The deadline for pre-registration and volunteering has already passed; however, if you want to attend or volunteer you should consider filling out the CHIA Alternative Registration Form and faxing it as soon as possible to (559) 251-5836. If you have questions, you can call (559) 251-5038.

Meet your Instructors

If you are attending, plan on stopping by the designated convention breakfast area on Monday, June 10th at 7AM to meet your instructors. Email Janet Robertson at robertso@sbc.edu.

References

Health 2.0

The annual fall conference for Health 2.0 will be taking place on September 29-October 2, 2013 at the Convention Center in Santa Clara County. If you’re unfamiliar with Health 2.0 or are unclear about what the term represents, I encourage you to read “What Exactly is Health 2.0?” by Artur Olesch in the November 2012 issue of the HCSPC Newsletter. http://goo.gl/Uvmg9

In a nutshell, Health 2.0 describes a new era for health innovation where providers, payers, employers, and patients (stakeholders) collaborate; patients are empowered; and the production of health becomes participatory. To be more specific, “Health 2.0 promotes, showcases and catalyzes new technologies in health care…through a worldwide series of conferences, code-a-thons, prize challenges, and more.” (Health 2.0 LLC)

Volunteer and Attend for Free!

Volunteering for the event is a great opportunity to attend the conference and network with industry leaders while learning about cutting-edge technology from around the world. Visit http://www.health2con.com/events/apply-to-volunteer/ for an application.

References
NCRA’s 39th Annual Educational Conference Highlights

The annual conference in San Francisco, CA brought together the world’s largest gathering of cancer registrars and celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Certified Tumor Registrar credential. The SBCC instructors in attendance included CIM Program Director, Denise Harrison, BS, CTR; Meryl Leventhal, MA, CTR, RHIT who was recognized for holding the credential for 25+ years; and Ann Griffin, PhD, CTR who introduced the key note speaker Robert Hiatt, MD, PhD.

An array of workshops included everything from Legislation and Regulations Impacting Healthcare Policy in 2013 to Secrets to Creating Powerful and Compelling Presentations. The most talked about presentation, however, was Income and its Correlates among the Cancer Registry Workforce. The speaker, Vanessa Lindler, MA, presented the findings from the 2012 NCRA Job Task Analysis (JTA) that included questions about age, gender, highest education, CTR status and other professional credentials, job title, years in current job, wage, and employer characteristics. The average hourly wage in 2012 increased from $19.50 in 2005 to $23.89; and the average salary in 2012 increased from $56,391 in 2005 to $62,232. The JTA concluded that:

- Getting a CTR may pay off more relative to getting a Bachelors degree
- Cancer Registry workers in high cost-of-living regions receive higher compensation
- Pattern of income across employer type varies by hourly versus salaried
- Cancer Registry workforce is making gains with regards to compensation

An instructor/student “meet and greet” enabled attending current and former SBCC students to meet and socialize with their instructors.
with the 2014 exam, including updating the exam content outline and weighting, plus reducing the number of exam questions. (See chart below.) The Council plans to conduct further research to determine the feasibility of offering additional certifications. Funding for NCRA’s Job Analysis was made possible in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US58-DP11-1108).

- The Job Analysis was performed under the guidance of a six-member Steering Committee comprised of members of NCRA volunteer leadership and representatives of key stakeholder groups. The Steering Committee appointed a ten-member Task Force to further assist with analyses.

- Based on their review of the results, the Steering Committee and Task Force developed a recommended set of updated test specifications for the CTR examination. The proposed new specifications allocate specific percentages of test questions across six domains of practice. The specifications include the job tasks and knowledge bases that received survey ratings high enough that were judged to have met a reasonable threshold for inclusion.
These two tips come courtesy from former SBCC instructor, Sue Wilner, RHIA. These tips were given as the World Wide Web was getting more social and the option to send text messages on your mobile phone was just getting started. Although Wilner's tips seem like common sense, they were necessary because “lols” and “:’s” along with other grammatical errors were starting to seep into the online classroom via email and message boards. Unfortunately, the problem has been exasperated as people use email and texting as their method of communicating. Hopefully, these two tips will make you think twice before you write your next post on Facebook in all capital letters.

Tip #1

As you have hopefully learned after all these courses, health information management professionals have one thing in common: they must read, write, analyze and implement systems based on what they read. Keeping abreast of current information, including regulations, standards, and manual and electronic systems, is the essence of these professions. Our healthcare employers expect that we will keep them in compliance with all regulatory and legal requirements, on track with current manual and electronic systems, at the same time as being efficient and effective in the expenditure of human and technical resources.

Whatever you do, whatever your chosen specialty-coding, privacy, release of information, data quality, information systems-you cannot get away from the reading that is the basis of this all. So please read, read, and read!

Tip #2

Please be sure that all your postings in this online classroom are professional. Please “spellcheck” your work and make sure that your assignments and emails are as grammatically correct and free of error as possible. Think of each posting as a job interview – how do you want to present yourself and do you want the next promotion?

Consistently honing your writing skills is part of professional development and cannot be overemphasized. Some of the most common mistakes people use when writing include the use of your/you’re, then/than, their/there/they’re, a lot/alot, and its/it’s. If you need to brush up on your writing skills, consider visiting SBCC’s Writing Center for tutoring, handouts, workshops, and answers to your questions.

http://www.sbcc.edu/clrc/writing_center/

If you would like to write and submit an original article to be published in the HIT/CIM Student Newsletter, you can email Tony Pineda at ajpineda@pipeline.sbcc.edu. The content of the articles should represent the breadth and span of HIT/CIM roles and interests. Practice your writing skills by using this forum to share your unique knowledge and expertise with your peers and instructors or use it as a stepping-stone to publish your future articles in the newsletters and journals of professional organizations like the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA).

According to the Encarta Dictionary: English (North America), a tip is “an item of advance or confidential information that may give the person who receives it an advantage”.

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Links and Resources

Santa Barbara City College
HIT/CIM Department
www.sbcc.edu/hit
ICD-10 Information
ICD-10 Webinar Archive, October 2012
https://www.box.com/s/kjl517al1wgy494w5k6g

SBCC HIT/CIM Student Pages
Facebook http://facebook.com/hcspc2011
LinkedIn http://la.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4408348

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
http://www.ahima.org
Credentialing Information
http://www.ahima.org/certification/

California Cancer Registrars Association (CCRA)
http://www.ccreregistrars.org/
Membership
http://www.ccreregistrars.org/membership.htm

California Health Information Association (CHIA)
http://californiabia.org
CHIA Student Scholarships
http://californiabia.org/chia-student-scholarships
CHIA Membership
http://californiabia.org/join

Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMMS)
http://www.himss.org
Credentialing Information
http://himss.org/asp/CertificationHome.asp

National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)
http://www.ncra-usa.org
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

California Office of Health Information Integrity
http://www.ohii.ca.gov/calohi/Home.aspx
The Online Commencement Ceremony (formerly known as “Virtual Graduation”) was held on May 22, 2013 via CCCConfer. Last year’s event was a pilot project that included only students who graduated from the Cancer Information Management (CIM), Health Information Technology (HIT), and Medical Coding Specialist programs. The event proved to be a great success that garnered praise and accolades from students, faculty, and staff.

In order to provide all students with the opportunity to celebrate their educational accomplishments, the 2013 Online Commencement Ceremony was opened to include students in all fully online Associate Degree and Certificate programs. Besides HIT, CIM, and Medical Coding Specialist, the ceremony included the students in the Administration of Justice, Criminology Emphasis, Liberal Studies, Film Studies, and Media Arts programs.

To view the archive visit www.cccconfer.org, click on the “archives” tab, select “webinars” then perform a search for “Online Graduation.” The Online Commencement Ceremony for 2012 can be accessed by visiting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLiNS-Ggz-s.

Congratulations!