

**PERIODIC PROGRAM REVIEW  
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
School of Health Services Management  
Ted Rogers School of Management**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Health Information Management (HIM) is a part-time degree completion program comprised of 24 one-semester courses, the equivalent of approximately two years of full-time study, for those with either of the following: a minimum of a two-year CAAT diploma from a CHIMA accredited or recognized health record/health information program with related experience; or a three year CAAT diploma in an applied health science with related experience. Students are admitted directly to the Health Information Management Stream of the School of Health Services Management Bachelor of Health Administration program. The program is designed around the needs of the working professional in health information management and offers courses in various formats such as lecture, intensive on-site and distance course delivery via the internet.

In an attempt to manage the future education needs of the health information profession, the Canadian Health Record Association (CHRA)<sup>1</sup> embarked on a process to determine the interest of universities across the country in providing undergraduate levels of education preparation. In the selection of four Canadian universities, Ryerson was one of the two Ontario universities<sup>2</sup> named as suitable sites to address the identified needs. In contrast to the University of Western's direct entry four year undergraduate program, Ryerson's School of Health Services Management proposed a part-time, degree-completion option with the intent to work in partnership with George Brown College which offers the 2-year Diploma program in Health Information Management.

The Health Information Management program (HIM) was proposed in 1999 and received Senate approval in 2001. The program began accepting students in September of 2003. The HIM program's initial entering class of 39 students graduated their first students in 2007 and currently a total of 25 students have now graduated from the program. The School of Health Services Management received full re-certification status by AUPHA (Association for University Programs in Health Administration) in 2006. Although the AUPHA focus is on the Health Services Management program, they viewed the HIM stream positively and recognized the complementary value of the HIM program to the School of Health Services Management. The program is currently undergoing review again for full re-certification. In 2009 it was recommended that the School of Health Services Management be moved from the Faculty of Community Services to the Ted Roger's School of Management (TRSM).

In addition, since students entering the HIM stream are already certified by the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) and since CHIMA (formerly CHRA) was involved in the development of this program, the HIM program has been granted full recognition status by CHIMA (Canadian Health Information Management Association).

The characteristics of the student body of the Health Information Management program are:

- Approximately 80% female; 20% male

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<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Health Records Association subsequently changed its name to Canadian Health information Management Association (CHIMA) in 2003.

<sup>2</sup> The University of Western Ontario was the other Ontario university selected.

- The majority (58%) identify with being over the age of 35
- 90 - 100% of enrolled students working >30 hours per week in the field
- 100% have post-secondary academic preparation prior to enrollment in the HIM field

A curriculum review and mapping process allowed HIM to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting program learning outcomes and the Ryerson Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (UDLE's). The results showed the diversity in the teaching and assessment methods in the program and how well the course structure mapped to the program learning outcomes (and UDLE's), culminating in the final practicum project which requires the integration of all of the learning outcomes.

Short term goals of Health Information Management:

- 1) School Retreat for Strategic Planning
- 2) Secure Funding for Faculty - additional full time faculty
- 3) Secure Funding for Staff – reinstate Program Development Officer (or similar position) and Research Assistant
- 4) Provide a School “presence” in the Ted Rogers School of Management

Long term goals of Health Information Management:

- 1) Increased Awareness of Program
- 2) Increased Student Performance, Retention and Graduation Rates
- 3) Development of a Master of Health Administration - MHA
- 4) Development of an HIM Minor/Major
- 5) Development of 4-year, direct entry, BHA Degree in Health Information Management.
- 6) Establishment of pathways to Ryerson's MBA program
- 7) Development of a 4-year, direct entry, BHA Degree in Health Informatics
- 8) Development of new courses in new potential areas of focus such as International Healthcare Systems, Project Management in Healthcare, Quality Improvement in Healthcare, and Managing Complex Chronic Disease
- 9) Development of a Research Institute with a focus on Chronic Disease Management and Prevention