

HIM Applications Being Accepted at SWOSU

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Applications for the Health Information Management program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford are now being accepted.

The applications are for the 2007-08 professional junior class that will begin taking classes during the 2007 fall semester.

Marion Prichard, director of the program, said this fall's class will be the 33rd group of students to enter the professional program at SWOSU since the program was developed as a four-year campus-based program in 1975.

Graduates from the nationally-accredited program have found employment in a variety of health care settings. Designed primarily to train students to become directors of health information departments in hospitals and coordinate the activities of anywhere from 1-75+ employees, the graduate can also find opportunities in many other areas. A health information manager is not limited to a certain professional role as in some careers, according to Prichard. If a graduate is not interested in becoming a director, assistant director or supervisor in a health information department, he/she can go into consulting, teaching or sales. Certain "specialty" areas are available such as utilization review, quality improvement or coding.

In addition, there are opportunities as coordinators for review agencies or insurance companies, information specialists for state health departments, planning agencies, and other state and federal organizations, as well as other health related areas.

Prichard said demand for qualified professionals is high. According to a survey completed by the American Health Information Management Association, a new graduate can expect a beginning salary in the range of \$30,000-\$50,000 and \$50,000-\$75,000 after five years, depending on job responsibility and applicant qualifications.

Anyone interested in obtaining an application or more information should contact Prichard at 580.774.3287 or Teri Stubbs, assistant director, at 580.774.3067. Their offices are located in Room 202 of the Science Building.