

Health Information Management Program at SWOSU Accepting Applications

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The Health Information Management Program at SWOSU in Weatherford has announced applications are currently being accepted for admission into the 2010-2011 professional junior class beginning the fall of 2010.

This will be the 36th group of students to enter the professional program at SWOSU since the program was developed as a four-year campus-based program in 1975.

Marion Prichard, director of the SWOSU HIM program, said graduates 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, a graduate can also find opportunities in many other areas.

According to data collected by the American Health Information Management Association, a person with a degree in health information management may find employment in over 40 work settings with over 125 job titles. Therefore, Prichard said a health information manager is not limited to a certain professional role as in some careers. HIM is an excellent choice for those individuals who seek a career in health care but do not wish direct patient contact. The AHIMA reports an average annual full-time salary across all work settings as \$55,676.

The program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Health Information and Informatics Education. Students are provided with a diverse background in business, management, computerization, medical science, law, and specific medical documentation requirements and practices to allow them to work with both administrative and physician staffs of health care facilities.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information should contact Prichard at 580.774.3287, Brandi Fowler, assistant director, at 580.774.3067 or Dana Lloyd at 580.774.7149. Their office is located in Room 202 of the Science Building.