

Board Meeting  
January 16, 2020

REDESIGNATE AND REVISE THE POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN  
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH  
SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Redesignate and Revise the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Information Management, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College recommends the redesignation and revision of the IBHE-approved, post-baccalaureate Certificate in Health Information Management as the Master of Science in Health Information Management.

The online certificate was launched in 2009 to provide an alternative to earning a second bachelor's degree in health information management (HIM) for students who desired eligibility to sit for the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification exam. At the time, master's degrees in HIM were rare and not approved for the RHIA exam. In 2015, eligibility for the exam changed to include bachelor's degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, or master's degrees. This made the 40-hour certificate less competitive with programs that had approximately the same credit hours but that granted a master's degree upon completion. In addition, the discipline's accreditation

organization, the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) has recently released new curriculum requirements and standards that require upgrading all undergraduate and graduate-level programs. In reviewing changes that would be required to the certificate, the Department of Biomedical and Health Information Sciences determined the time was right to transition the certificate to a degree effective Fall 2020.

The M.S. in Health Information Management will require 39 hours, meets CAHIIM curriculum competencies and standards, and provides a second UIC pathway to eligibility for the RHIA exam, the first is the B.S. in Health Information Management. The M.S. will be completed through coursework only, including a capstone course in which students propose a solution to a HIM problem. Students enrolled in the certificate as of Spring 2020 will be able to complete the certificate or may transfer to the M.S. provided they wish to fulfill all M.S. requirements.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.