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.