



### **Background Information**

For some fifteen years, the Department of Informatics at University of South Carolina Upstate has offered a concentration in healthcare information management as part of the Bachelor of Arts in Information Management & Systems (IMS) degree program. For the past two years the Department has also offered a minor in health informatics. Historically, 40-50% of the majors in IMS program have completed the healthcare information management concentration or minor and hundreds of graduates have matriculated and continued on to wonderful careers in the healthcare sector fulfilling a crucial need in electronic medical records not filled by any other degree program in the Upstate.

A drawback for these graduates is that the diploma reads “BA in IM&S” without any direct mention of healthcare information management making graduates less attractive to potential employers’ initial review of credentials. Given the importance of this skillset to the Upstate economy, and the success of the concentration over the last fifteen years, this program of study warrants its own degree. With the recent hiring of three full-time faculty dedicated to health informatics and healthcare information management, the Department of Informatics is now ready to promote the concentration/minor to standalone degree status: Bachelor of Arts in Health Informatics.

### **Objectives**

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of technology applications within healthcare.
- Demonstrate knowledge in the area of health informatics policies and regulatory compliance.
- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts of analytics and decision support.
- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts in work design and process improvement.
- Gather and analyze information on a technology.
- Develop and present a multimedia presentation involving technical subject matter.
- Prepare professional written communications.
- Formulate effective information technology solutions.
- Conduct a logical analysis of problems faced in the field of informatics.

### **Assessment of Need**

The healthcare sector is the largest employer (except for the seasonal K-12 sector) in the Upstate region of South Carolina employing over 40,000. While some of these are certainly doctors and nurses, the vast majority are not and most of them rely heavily on the use of information technology to perform their jobs. With the increasing importance of electronic medical records and information technology pervading every aspect of healthcare, professionals skilled in health information management and health informatics is a critical need for the state. The Chief Information Officer of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the largest single employer of information technologist in the state, estimates South Carolina will need 28,000 new professionals in this field over the next decade (2,800 per year). Currently, all of higher education in the state is producing only a few hundred such graduates each year.

The Bachelor of Arts in Information Management & Systems (IMS) program at the University of South Carolina Upstate was created over fifteen years ago to provide “technologists” professionals to primarily the regional business and healthcare sectors. The IMS program is a unique curriculum combining computer technology, information technology, business theory//management, communications, and informatics (studying how information technology affects humanity culturally, legally, socially, and politically). One of the concentration areas of this program comprises a set of courses dedicated to the use of information technology in healthcare. This is the concentration/minor we are now elevating to the level of being a standalone degree program.

Will the proposed modification impact any existing programs and services at the institution?

Yes

No

If yes, explain. (1000 characters)

**List of Similar Programs in South Carolina**

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Differences</b>
MHIT	USC Columbia	Designed specifically to produce highly qualified professionals and leaders with expertise in both information technology and health administration.	This program is a graduate degree whereas our program is an undergraduate degree. Our graduates could continue to this program.
MHA	USC Columbia	Provides training in management, accounting, evaluation and planning, information systems, health law, and decision making for health service organizations.	This program is a graduate degree whereas our program is an undergraduate degree. Our graduates could continue to this program.
BS in Health Science – Health Services Administration Concentration	Clemson	Business and health services with the administration focus. A minor in business administration is a required component of this concentration.	This program has only a small information technology component. Our program has extensive information technology courses in networking, databases, IT project management, and programming.
MSHI	MUSC	Designed to ensure graduates are prepared to select, implement, use, and evaluate health care information systems such as electronic health records (EHRs), data management, and analytic systems.	This program is a graduate degree whereas our program is an undergraduate degree. Our graduates could continue to this program.
BS in Healthcare Studies	MUSC	Students must have an Associate of Science degree from a South Carolina technical college. Students will complete courses online focused on the core functions of the U.S. healthcare system and strategies to promote population health.	Our program is also a continuation program for students holding a 2-year degree but our program is accredited by CAHIIM (the only 4-year program in the state) and therefore prepares our graduates to sit for the RHIA certification exam, a professional credential required in many health information management jobs.
Master in Health Administration	MUSC	Students are sought who bring both a business mind and a commitment to caring for the enterprise, its patients and families, and its employees. Our students gain employment in hospitals, physician practices, long term care settings, and consultant organizations.	This program is a graduate degree whereas our program is an undergraduate degree. Our graduates could continue to this program.

Program Name	Institution	Similarities	Differences
AA in Health Information Management	Greenville Tech	Teaches students to work with and manage health-related information.	This is one of the CAHIIM accredited 2-year programs in the state that feed students to our program who wish to continue on for a 4-year accredited degree.
AA in Health Information Management	Midlands Tech	Teaches students to work with and manage health-related information.	This is the other of the CAHIIM accredited 2-year programs in the state that feed students to our program who wish to continue on for a 4-year accredited degree.

**Description of the Program**

<b>Projected New Enrollment</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Fall</b>		<b>Spring</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours
2016-2017	82*	1200	82	1200	24**	72
2017-2018	85	1275	85	1275	24	72
2018-2019	90	1350	90	1350	40**	120
2019-2020	95	1425	95	1425	40	120
2020-2021	100	1500	100	1500	40	120

\*Current actual enrollment as of Fall 2016. By the end of five years, we anticipate a total growth of 15%-20% in enrollment.

\*\*We plan to offer more summer health informatics courses in the future.

**Curriculum**

Curriculum sheet is attached.

**Curriculum Changes**

**Note: Complete this table only if there are changes to the curriculum.**

<b>Courses Eliminated from Program</b>	<b>Courses Added to Program</b>
	HIMS 350: Healthcare Quality Improvement
	HIMS 425: Public Policy Trends in Health Informatics
	HIMS 499: Senior Seminar in Health Information Management

**Faculty**

No faculty or staffing changes are required. In recent years, we have hired two full-time instructors dedicated to the health informatics program (as was required by the CAHIIM accrediting agency) and a full-time tenure-track assistant professor with expertise in public health. So our current faculty has been supporting the program for two years now and is sufficient to support the elevation to bachelor degree status.

**Resources**

No new library or other resources are required. The program has been offered and supported by the University for over a decade, so resources are adequate to support the elevation to bachelor degree status.

**Financial Support**

<b>Estimated New Costs by Year</b>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Program Administration <sup>1</sup>	89,002	89,002	89,002	89,002	89,002	445,010
Faculty and Staff Salaries <sup>2</sup>	109,538	109,538	109,538	109,538	109,538	547,690
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies and Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,540</b>	<b>198,540</b>	<b>198,540</b>	<b>198,540</b>	<b>198,540</b>	<b>992,700</b>
<b>Sources of Financing</b>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Tuition Funding	0	59,772	161,532	245,052	346,332	812,688
Program-Specific Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Funding (i.e., Special State Appropriation)*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reallocation of Existing Funds*	899,328	899,328	899,328	899,328	899,328	4,496,640
Federal Funding*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funding*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>899,328</b>	<b>959,100</b>	<b>1,060,860</b>	<b>1,144,380</b>	<b>1,245,660</b>	<b>5,309,328</b>
<b>Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated New Costs)</b>	<b>700,788</b>	<b>760,560</b>	<b>862,320</b>	<b>945,840</b>	<b>1,047,120</b>	<b>4,316,628</b>

\*Provide an explanation for these costs and sources of financing in the budget justification.

### **Budget Justification**

No new costs are required. The program has been supported by the Department and University for more than a decade and for over two years has been staffed with full-time faculty. Elevating the program to bachelor degree status will have no effect on costs.

**Note: Institutions need to complete this budget justification *only* if any other new costs, state funding, reallocation of existing funds, federal funding, or other funding are included in the Financial Support table.**

#### **<sup>1</sup>Program Administration:**

Dr. Nick Rouse is 100% dedicated to the BA in HIM program and is also the Program Director for the CAHIIM-accredited program of study through the BA in HI program. Even though, Dr. Rouse does not represent a new cost, his full salary and fringe is reflected in the above table under Program Administration.

#### **<sup>2</sup>Faculty and Staff Salaries:**

Dr. Susan Richardson is 100% dedicated to the BA in HIM program Even though, Dr. Richardson does not represent a new cost, her full salary and fringe is reflected in the above table under Faculty and Staff Salaries.

Dr. Leonhirth is 25% dedicated to the BA in HIM program. Even though, Dr. Leonhirth does not represent a new cost, ¼ of her salary and fringe is reflected in the above table under Faculty and Staff Salaries.

#### **Tuition Funding:**

Based on Projected Headcount from earlier in this document, assuming students who have resident status attending full-time during the fall and spring and are taking 3 hours in the summer.

### **Evaluation and Assessment**

Will any the proposed modification impact the way the program is evaluated and assessed?

Yes

No

If yes, explain. (1000 characters)

All degree programs at USC Upstate are evaluated annually. An evaluation plan has been developed involving three goals, several learning objectives for each goal, and assessment instruments identified for each objective. The data for this evaluation will be collected throughout the academic year and an assessment report generated which is reviewed by a campus-wide assessment committee. This assessment will be added to the Department of Informatics' BA in IM&S assessment and the MS in Informatics assessment.

Will the proposed modification affect or result in program-specific accreditation?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, explain; if the modification will result in the program seeking program-specific accreditation, provide the institution's plans to seek accreditation, including the expected timeline for accreditation. (500 characters)

Our health information management program of study is already accredited by CAHIIM. Since our curriculum is not changing in a significant way, This accreditation will be maintained after the program is elevated to bachelor degree status. Our program is the only 4-year accredited program in South Carolina.

Will the proposed modification affect or lead to licensure or certification?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, explain how the program will prepare students for licensure or certification. (500 characters)

Students completing our accredited program of study may sit for the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification. This professional credential is a requirement for many jobs throughout the health information management profession.

### **Teacher or School Professional Preparation Programs**

Is the proposed modified program a teacher or school professional preparation program?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, complete the following components.

Area of Certification

Attach a document addressing the South Carolina Department of Education Requirements and SPA or Other National Specialized and/or Professional Association Standards.