Health Information Technology FAQ’s

Q: Do I need to take a test to get into the program or is it something that I can just change my major and start with the classes?

A: You will have to take an entrance exam unless you are already in school and have taken the entrance exam. If you are in school, you need to go to Admissions and do a major change.

Q: How many semesters will it take to complete each program?

A: It takes 5 semesters to complete the HIT Associate Degree program. It takes 4 semesters to complete the HIT Coding diploma program. It takes 2 semesters to complete the Healthcare Access Associate program. Actual completion time may vary based on your program entry date, plan of study, and class load if not taken as a full-time student.

Q: When do the programs start?

A: The coding diploma classes start each January, but students can take courses if they have all the prerequisites. If a student desires to start early, he/she may be out of sequence and/or may not be able to always attend full-time. Students may enter the fall semester for the HIT degree.

Q: What do I do if I need to take an elective in order to get full-time?

A: You cannot take courses outside of your major’s requirements. You can receive reduced financial aid if you are taking a reduced load.

Q: Can the coding diploma program lead to the degree later if I want to further my education?

A: The HIT Coding Associate diploma classes can apply to the HIT Associate degree. However, the degree requires upper level college core classes [college algebra, Anatomy & Physiology with labs, etc.] whereas the diploma does not.

Q: If I am a returning Wiregrass student, will my documentation on file be sufficient for my educational transcripts required for the HIT program?

A: Unless you have attended another school and nothing has changed, just contact Admissions to activate your file.

Q: I previously attended South Georgia College. What other educational transcripts will I need to provide, if any, in addition to my official college transcript?

A: All transcripts, high school and post-secondary education, must be submitted to the college.

Q: How do I know if classes I took at other colleges will be accepted at Wiregrass?

A: The Registrar’s office determines that.
Q: Our employer has an educational reimbursement program that will assist us based on our grades. So, we need an estimate of the tuition, lab fees, cost of books, and any other costs involved with this program. We have to provide this information and obtain prior approval before enrolling and attending any classes.

A: Students can obtain this information by contacting the Registrar’s or Financial Aid offices. It is also available on the website at http://www.wiregrass.edu/admissions/net_price_calculator.php.

Q: What is the difference between the Business Administrative Technology and HIT programs?

A: BAT trains students for traditional office administrative/management positions. The BAT diploma has two possible tracks (business and medical). HIT trains students for processing and maintaining health records.

Q: If I decide to enroll in the HIT degree program, I can’t earn the RHIT credential until the program is accredited. What can I do?

A: The accreditation process takes around two years to complete. This is something to keep in mind when making a decision on which program to take. Diploma graduates can sit for the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) exam offered by AHIMA; it doesn’t require accreditation.

Q: What do I do if I am a returning student with registration problems?

If your major was Medical Coding/Data Insurance Specialist, unfortunately that program was terminated after summer quarter 2010. That is why you are getting the registration error. Change your major to our new Health Information Coding program. You will need to come in and take the Algebra portion of the placement test since that is required for HIT Coding (it was not required for the program you were in Summer Quarter). Placement testing is offered every Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on the Valdosta campus. No appointment is necessary. Students wishing to test need to first come to the admissions office to pick up a placement testing form. Please bring a photo ID with you as well.

Q: I’m receiving a registration error in BanWeb. What do I do?

A: Verify you have taken the required prerequisites, and that your major is current and correct. If that is not the problem, contact either the Admissions or the Registrar’s office. The Admissions office only handles “Field of Study” restriction errors. The Registrar’s office handles all other registration errors (e.g. “prerequisite and test scores”).
Q: My book is not yet available in the bookstore and the time to use financial aid is about to be up. What do I do?

A: Complete a pre-order at the bookstore before the expiration date.