

FORM 1

COVER SHEET
NEW DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF INTENT
(PLANNING NOI)

Program Information

Program Name: Health Informatics Technology and Management (HITM)

Institution Name: Eastern Washington University

Degree Granting Unit: College of Business and Public Administration

(e.g. College of Arts and Science)

Degree: BS or BA- Level: Bachelor Type: Science or Arts-Still under discussion
still under discussion

(e.g. B.S. Chemistry)

(e.g. Bachelor)

(e.g. Science)

Major: HITM CIP Code: 51.0707

(e.g. Chemistry)

Minor: _____

(if required for major)

Concentration(s): _____
(if applicable)

Proposed Start Date: 9/24/2010

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 15.00 At Full Enrollment by Year: 2012 45.00
(# FTE) *(# FTE)*

Proposed New Funding: \$100,000

Funding Source: State FTE Self Support Other

Mode of Delivery

Single Campus Delivery EWU-Spokane

(enter locations)

Off-Site _____

(enter locations)

Distance Learning _____

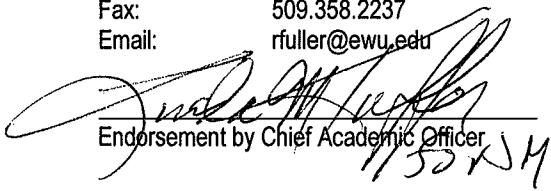
(enter formats)

Substantive Statement of Need

Attach Sheet

Contact Information (Academic Department Representative)

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Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer

10/23/09
Date

Health Informatics
Statement of Need

Eastern Washington University proposes developing a health information technology degree. The primary purpose of the program is to meet the burgeoning need for IT professionals to serve the health care industry broadly defined. This need is exacerbated by the growth and use of electronic health records by all health care providers.

The purpose is to develop a baccalaureate degree that meets the needs of this fast growing sector of the economy. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this field is expected to grow faster than average with an expected demand for 40,000 additional workers by 2015. Moreover, there is strong demand for certificate programs to help re-train workers in this sector.

Managers in all settings will be needed to improve quality and efficiency of health care while controlling costs, as insurance companies and Medicare demand higher levels of accountability. Managers also will be needed to oversee the computerization of patient records and to ensure their security as required by law. Additional demand for managers will stem from the need to recruit workers and increase employee retention, to comply with changing regulations, to implement new technology, and to help improve the health of their communities by emphasizing preventive care.

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition*, Medical and Health Services Managers, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos014.htm> (visited June 22, 2009)).

Recent federal legislation mandates the use of EHR by health care providers and provides incentives to speed implementation as well as financial penalties that will start in 20XX. In the state of Washington alone, there is a growing shortage of health IT professionals. One recent study by Eduventures for EWU found the shortage exists across many occupational groups. The following table summarizes one key finding:

Change in Employment from 2004 to 2014

	SPOKANE Region	WA STATE	USA
Occupation	Change (%)	Change (%)	Change (%)
Computer Systems Analysts	30.3%	27.0%	31.4%
Computer Programmers	28.1%	43.3%	2.0%
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	22.6%	31.5%	54.6%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	19.2%	22.2%	38.4%

	SPOKANE Region	WA STATE	USA
Occupation	Change (%)	Change (%)	Change (%)
Computer and Information Systems Managers	19.0%	25.4%	25.9%
Computer Support Specialists	18.8%	28.3%	23.0%
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	16.7%	36.7%	48.4%
Database Administrators	16.7%	21.3%	38.2%
Operations Research Analysts	0.0%	17.0%	8.4%

The health information technology program will address this employment need. The program will draw on the expertise of faculty from health services administration, management information systems and computer science. The project also includes support from the leading health care and health services employers such as Inland Northwest Health Systems and Inland Imaging. Plans are underway to broaden this support to include other leading employers. The project will lead to development of a federal grant to Health and Human Services under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

To summarize, the project will develop a bachelor's degree program that meets the accreditation standards for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). In addition, the project will develop various certificate options that will meet the needs of the regional labor force.