

Project Management's Role in Health Information Technology (HIT)

The health care industry continues to experience growing pains as it strives to implement information technology (IT) solutions to manage its growing data needs. Health care organizations need to have an electronic health record (EHR) system up and running or face the risk of stringent penalties by 2015. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that during 2012 to 2014, the HIT job market will grow approximately 24% each year. Dice.com states that during 2011 to 2012, HIT jobs increased by 18%, and health data positions are expected to grow over 20% from 2010 to 2020.

The federal government through its Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology (HIT), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will spend approximately \$118 million during 2010 to 2015 to train nearly 40,000 HIT workers to fill the increasing demand for health care savvy IT workers.

HIT skills include both clinical and managerial aspects. A combination of IT skills and how health care organization function are necessary for success in the fast paced HIT marketplace. Managing IT projects including systems, networks, and data systems are core functions expected of health care IT professionals. Managing projects such as implementing an EMR are highly sought after skills.

According to Richard Katz, CEO HRMS, West Hollywood California, the number one set of skills for HIT professionals is project management. Biomedical Informatics includes database management, management information systems skills, telecommunications skills and project management skills. Project management skills have been employed for thousands of years. When



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the pyramids were build they didn't just put some blocks together, they developed a plan that addressed the scope, had a set amount of time to complete the project, and had a budget. The HIT project management team usually consists of well-trained individuals who complete the tasks that make the finished project a success. Scope, time, budget, and quality are crucial elements for HIT project managers. The project management processes include initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing. Project management knowledge areas include: integration; scope; time; cost; quality; human resources; communications; risk; procurement; and stakeholder management.

As an assistant professor at Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine's (COM) Biomedical Informatics Program (M.S.B.I.), I am frequently asked, what skills students will learn in NSU's M.S.B.I. Program. When I explain that students take required courses such as Management Information Systems in Health Care and Clinical Decision Support Systems to build knowledge and skills in the areas HIT, and Information Systems Project Management in Health Care where students learn project management science, they are pleased, and seem eager to learn more about the NSU M.S.B.I. Program.

If you are interested in learning more about the NSU M.S.B.I. Program, the Graduate Certificate in Medical Informatics, the M.S.N. in Nursing Informatics, or the Masters of Public Health (MPH) with an option for receiving an informatics certificate, contact the NSU M.S.B.I. Program at (954) 262-1032 or email msbi@nova.edu and visit our website at <http://medicine.nova.edu/msbi>.

Nursing Students Receive \$1 Million for Nurse Faculty Loan Program at Barry University

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Barry University's Division of Nursing \$1,176,182 for nursing students.

The loan program is geared toward helping close the gap in the nation's nursing shortage by allowing nurses wanting to continue their education and return to school to earn their master's or doctoral degrees in nursing education.

A nurse accepted into the Nurse Faculty Loan Program can expect an 85 percent forgiveness policy, meaning only 15 percent of the loan would be paid back, if they begin teaching as a full-time faculty member at any college or university, including Barry, for five years after graduation.

Since 2009, the HRSA grant has allowed 56 nurses to return to school for their PhD who would otherwise not have been able to. This year more than two dozen will be afforded the same opportunity.

Earn an Online Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I. Degree)

Acquire skills in development, implementation, and evaluation of health information technology projects such as

- Electronic Medical Records Transition Process
- Health Information Technology Project Management
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For more information, please visit <http://medicine.nova.edu/msbi/> or contact us at 800-356-0026, ext. 21032 or email at msbi@nova.edu.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.