



## News Release

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Athens, GA— Athens Technical College will introduce a new associate degree program in Health Information Technology this fall.

Dr. Joyce Sansing, vice president for academic affairs, said that the program will present another career option to individuals who are interested in the healthcare field, but who do not want to provide direct patient care.

“Health information technology is a growing field,” Dr. Sansing stated. “Projections for Northeast Georgia show an estimated growth rate of 27.5% for medical records and health information technicians between now and 2014.”

She added that President Obama has proposed a massive effort to make all health records standardized and electronic within five years as part of the effort to revive the economy. Health information technology professionals will play a key role in this effort.

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## **Athens Technical College**

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College adds Health Information Technology program

Health information technology professionals manage medical information and its secure exchange between consumers and providers of healthcare services. They specialize in medical records management, privacy, risk management, medical coding, insurance reimbursement, corporate compliance, data analysis, and reporting.

Graduates of this new associate degree program will have options to work in hospitals, physicians' offices, medical or mental health clinics, managed care organizations, consulting and law firms, ambulatory care facilities, government or educational entities or even from home as coders, data analysts, patient information coordinators, and health record technicians.

Students can gain admission to the program for Fall Quarter 2009, which begins on Monday, September 28, and begin taking the general education coursework that is included in the program curriculum. Major-specific courses will be offered for the first time during Winter Quarter 2010.

Contact the Admissions Office of Athens Technical College at 706-355-5005 for additional information.

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