

# Seattle Jobs Initiative's Medical Business Information Technology (MBIT) Program



## Background Information

In May 2010, Seattle Jobs Initiative convened a healthcare employment focus group to explore ways to connect and best prepare students for careers in the expanding healthcare industry. Participants included managers from local healthcare organizations: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Swedish Medical Center, NW Hospital Medical Center, the Veteran's Administration Hospital, and UW Medical Center.

Following an in-depth review of syllabi from medical administrative support programs at several Seattle-area community colleges, this group identified key components that a quality training program would cover, including embedded and stand-alone performance (soft) skills education, MS Office, medical terminology, insurance billing and coding, medical recordkeeping and databases, and healthcare business processes.

These employers described the demand for medical administrative support skills in their organizations and stressed the importance of student externship experience – in lieu of actual job experience in the field – as the best way for program graduates to compete for one of those entry-level jobs.

Based on this important feedback, SJI and SSCC are now offering the Medical Business Information Technology Program – a 24-week intensive skills training program that combines SJI's two-quarter Office Occupations Program and SSCC's one-quarter Medical Office Program. The MBIT Program blends the key components of these successful programs while weaving in the expectations and skills required by today's healthcare employers – plus 160 hours of on-the-job externship experience.

Program graduates will obtain more than a year's worth of full-time academic credit through the program, putting them on the springboard to a living-wage career as well as to the potential of future college attainment and career development.

**For more information about the MBIT program or about hosting an externship at your organization, contact Linda Rider: [lrider@seattlejobsinit.com](mailto:lrider@seattlejobsinit.com) or (206) 621-0498.**

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