



# Recertification Guide

Maintenance of Certification **August 2025 (Updated)**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**AHIMA CERTIFICATION—YOUR BEST PROFESSIONAL VALUE ..... 4**

**RECERTIFICATION PROCESS ..... 5**

**QUALIFYING CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AND CALCULATION OF CEUS ..... 8**

    Non-Qualifying Continuing Education Activities ..... 14

**RECERTIFICATION FEES ..... 16**

**CERTIFICATION STATUS ..... 17**

**REINSTATING A CREDENTIAL ..... 19**

**RECERTIFICATION APPEAL PROCESS..... 20**

**ADDITIONAL RECERTIFICATION PROCESSES..... 21**

**SUNSET CREDENTIALS ..... 22**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ..... 23**

**APPENDIX A—HIIM DOMAINS ..... 28**

---

*Congratulations on earning your AHIMA professional credential! You've marked yourself as a leader and HI expert, and shown your support for the healthcare profession. But there's much more to certification. Through it you've increased your chances for success in your chosen career.*

---

# AHIMA CERTIFICATION—YOUR BEST PROFESSIONAL VALUE

---

## Receiving an AHIMA Credential:

- Showcases your commitment to the health information profession, dedication to quality care, and the importance of upholding high standards in managing confidential health data.
- Demonstrates continued value to your employer and the profession by investing in lifelong learning, keeping your expertise current, and enabling you to perform at your best.
- Sets you apart from non-certified peers. AHIMA certification affirms your skills, experience, knowledge, and professional competence to employers, consumers, and yourself.

## What Are the Biggest Benefits of Recertification (Maintenance of an AHIMA Certification)?

- Maximizes your return on investment by delivering the high value associated with AHIMA certification.
- Enhances your professional credibility and keeps you competitive in a demanding job market.
- Reinforces your ongoing commitment to excellence and competence in health information and informatics.
- Connects you with a network of credentialed professionals who share your expertise and passion for the field.

To Recertify You Must:

- 1. Obtain the required number of CEUs during your two (2) year recertification cycle.
- 2. Participate in accepted and qualified CEU activities.
- 3. Report your CEUs in the CEU Center by the due date.
- 4. Pay your recertification fee in your CEU Center by the due date.

Document, retain, and file your CEU activity for auditing and more in the CEU Center of your MyAHIMA account.

# RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

## CEU Requirements for Single Credential

If You Have a(n)...	You Must Earn...
Certified Coding Associate (CCA)	20 CEUs
Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)	20 CEUs
Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P)	20 CEUs
Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)	30 CEUs
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)	20 CEUs
Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)	30 CEUs
Certified Documentation Integrity Practitioner (CDIP)	30 CEUs

# CEU Requirements for Multiple Credentials

If you have more than one AHIMA credential, you must earn ten (10) additional CEUs per credential during your two-year recertification cycle, up to a total of fifty (50) CEUs. These CEUs may not be duplicated or used for more than one credential. Below are examples. (Defaults to the credential with the highest CEUs required...then adds on addition CEUs)

Credential	Required Number of CEUs
CCS and CCS-P	(20 + 10) 30
CHPS with RHIT	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CHDA	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CDIP	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CCS and CCS-P	(30 + 10 + 10) 50
CHDA with CCS, CHPS, and CDIP	(30 + 10 + 10) 50
RHIA with CCS, CCS-P, CHDA, and CDIP	(30 + 10 + 10) 50

## Credential Hierarchy:

- Upon completion of the requirements, a baccalaureate or higher-level Health Information Management (HIM) credential (RHIA) supersedes an associate based HIM credential (RHIT). Once granted, recertification requirements for the RHIT are no longer required.
- The CCS credential supersedes the CCA credential. Upon passing the CCS examination, the CCA is replaced with the CCS. Recertification requirements are no longer required for the CCA credential.

## Recertification Cycle

Health informatics and information management (HIIM) is a constantly evolving field, and professionals in this field require the most current knowledge to move the profession forward. Best practices, technology, privacy and security, coding updates, healthcare laws and regulations change frequently. For these reasons, a recertification cycle of two years has been established, during which time certificants will be required to attain a specific number of CEUs to update existing knowledge and skills as well as acquire new knowledge and skills relating to advances in the HIIM field and changing job responsibilities.

**Initial Recertification Cycle:** The initial recertification cycle for newly credentialed certificants (first credential obtained) begins the day the exam is passed and ends two years later. A credential is awarded when a candidate:

- Passes the certification examination, OR
- Passes the certification examination AND has successfully completed the academic requirements of a HIIM program accredited by Commission on Accreditation for Health Information and Informatics Management Education (CAHIIM) (for RHIA and RHIT testing candidates). The academic prerequisite is confirmed when an official transcript is submitted and approved.
- **RHIT or RHIA Early Testing Candidates:** The initial recertification cycle for RHIT or RHIA early testers will begin once official transcripts have been approved, with the cycle starting the date the exam was passed. Early test takers will have up to one (1) year after the exam is passed to submit their official transcript. If transcripts are not submitted within that period, the exam will have to be re-taken and passed.

Example:

Exam taken:	Exam pass date:	Transcript approval date:	Recertification cycle is:
RHIA	11/18/2023	12/5/2023	11/18/2023 – 11/17/2025
RHIA	11/18/2023	10/5/2023	11/18/2023 – 11/17/2025

- **Ongoing:** The recertification cycle for subsequently obtained credential(s) begins with the start of the next cycle date for the first or initial credential. For the remainder of the current cycle the second credential will be placed into a sync cycle which waives it from recertification requirements.

**Sync Cycle:** Waives the recertification requirements for that credential for the first recertification cycle.

Example:

If existing credential is:	Current recertification cycle is:	After obtaining:	The recertification cycle for both credentials is:
RHIA	11/18/2023 – 11/17/2025	*CCS on 12/8/2024	11/18/2024 – 11/17/2025

\* In this example, CEUs earned between December 8, 2024, and November 17, 2025, can be reported for either credential.



# QUALIFYING CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AND CALCULATION OF CEUS

---

## Continuing Education Unit (CEU)

CEUs must be earned within your recertification cycle and must be relevant to the HIIM field as presented in the HIIM domains to be eligible for CEU credit.

Eighty (80) percent of required recertification CEUs must be earned within the HIIM domains.

A). The remaining twenty (20) percent can include participation in CEU activities on topics not included in the domains but relevant to the credential holder's professional position.

When implemented, there will be a new CCHIIM continuing education requirement:

At least 40% of required CEUs must be earned through AHIMA sources. These include:

- AHIMA-produced content (including HCPro products and services)
- Training provided by AHIMA Trainers for their designation(s)
- Programs offered by AHIMA Component Associations (CAs)

The remaining 60% of CEUs may be obtained through AHIMA Approved Continuing Education Providers (ACEPs) or other third-party educational sources.

Detailed guidance on how to calculate CEUs based on your specific recertification cycle will be provided to all members and credential holders at the time of implementation.

# Calculation of CEUs

Calculation of CEUs is based upon the guide below.

A session lasting less than 30 minutes will not be accepted for CEU credit. CEU credit should be calculated according to the following method:

Session Length	CEU Credits
0–29 minutes (0–0.49 hrs)	0 CEUs
30–44 minutes (0.50–0.74 hrs)	0.5 CEUs
45–89 minutes (0.75–1.49 hrs)	1 CEU
90–104 minutes (1.50–1.74 hrs)	1.5 CEUs
105–149 minutes (1.75–2.49 hrs)	2 CEUs
150–164 minutes (2.50–2.74 hrs)	2.5 CEUs
165–209 minutes (2.75–3.49 hrs)	3 CEUs

## Qualifying Continuing Education Activities

Qualifying CEUs are categorized in three distinct ways: Primary, Academic and Enhancement. Each has its own unique criteria for earning, reporting and “rolling over” to the next recertification cycle.

### PRIMARY

- CEUs earned through participation in educational programs or events that adhere to AHIMA domain criteria (80%) or can be classified as meaningful content related to the credential holder’s current position (20%). Participation in educational programs (in person and virtual) on topics relevant to HIIM.
  - Educational portions of AHIMA meetings (national convention, state, local, or regional meetings)
  - Educational portions of programs from component organizations (CAs)
  - Educational content presented by AHIMA trainers teaching to their designation

Educational portions of programs sponsored by AHIMA-Approved Continuing Education Provider Program (ACEP) partners or other third-party providers on topics that maintain, update, or enlarge knowledge and skills relevant to the HIIM profession.



# ACADEMIC

CEUs earned through participation in specific higher educational programs or activities

## 2. Participation in educational programs of study that address HIIM-relevant subject areas

- a. Accredited post-secondary courses attended for credit, including traditional on-campus, online, or distance education administered through a college or university. This includes courses taken in pursuit of HIIM profession-relevant associate, baccalaureate, master, or doctorate degrees. All coursework and final exams must be completed by the recertification cycle end date (*fifteen (15) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; ten (10) CEUs for each quarter credit.*) **CEUs earned in this manner cannot be reported for a future credential.**

**Example:** If the credential holder has an active RHIT credential and is seeking to take the RHIA exam, CEUs earned from completed courses can only be applied to the RHIT credential.

Audit of an academic course or relevant non-credit adult education course, including attendance at a college or university course with permission and following regulations, without completing necessary requirements for full credit. Course must be completed by the recertification cycle end date (*six (6) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; four (4) CEUs for each quarter credit.*) **CEUs earned in this manner cannot be reported for a future credential.**

- b. In-person, online or distance education programs relevant to HIIM core content, which are not a college or university credit course, or an ACEP prior-approved AHIMA program, may be subject to review. All program coursework and exams must be completed by the recertification cycle end date.

# ENHANCEMENT

CEUs earned through specific achievements; volunteer service; and educational contributions.

## 3. Obtaining an advanced degree (in a relevant field) Fifteen (15) CEUs per semester.

Advanced degree in this case can be defined as “attaining a degree above your current status.” Individuals are required to submit a copy of their diploma or official grade report to qualify as an enhancement activity. When an advanced degree meets the following criteria, it will count as an enhancement activity (in addition to receiving the aforementioned amount of CEUs):

- a. For those with a high school diploma or certificate, this means obtaining an associate degree [from a CAHIIM-accredited program] or higher in a relevant field
- b. For those with a baccalaureate degree, this means obtaining a master’s degree or higher [from a CAHIIM-accredited program] or higher in a relevant field

## 4. Obtaining additional AHIMA certifications and/or microcredentials

Activity	CEU Credits
Obtaining an additional AHIMA certification (upon passing the certification exam)	6 CEUs (Initial Certification Only)
Obtaining an AHIMA Microcredential (upon passing the microcredential assessment)	3 CEUs initial; 1 CEU upon renewal

---

## 5. Publication and presentation of material relevant to HIIM

---

Publication is the development of an original work, relevant to the HIIM profession, reproduced by written or electronic means for general dissemination to the public (unless required as part of work responsibilities - see section VI .6. a. and VI.6.b).

- a. Author of a textbook, workbook, or manual - thirty (30) CEUs*
- b. Editor of a textbook, workbook, or manual - twenty (20) CEUs*
- c. Author of an article in a research, professional, or trade journal - fifteen (15) CEUs*
- d. Author of a chapter in a textbook, workbook, or manual - ten (10) CEUs*
- e. Editor of a professional or trade journal - five (5) CEUs*
- f. AHIMA course writing (for example, AHIMA VLab, CourseShare - five (5) CEUs***
- g. Author of an educational article in a local or state newsletter - two (2) CEUs*
- h. Reviewer of book manuscripts prior to publications - one (1) CEU per chapter*

---

### **i. Presentation is the development of an original work delivered to an audience**

---

- a. Speaker at an educational program - one (1) CEU for each 15 minutes of podium time*
- b. Panel participant at an educational program - one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of podium time*

## 6. Independent study activities relevant to the HIIM profession

- a. Study groups devoted to topics relevant to HIIM. **CEUs will not be granted if the study groups are used to prepare for the exam or certification held – one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation**
- b. Enrollment in AHIMA independent study program modules (*TBD by AHIMA*)
- c. Enrollment in independent study programs relevant to AHIMA core education content areas from organizations other than AHIMA (AHIMA prior approval required).
- d. AHIMA post-test offerings accompanying a Journal of AHIMA article or book published by AHIMA (*TBD by AHIMA*)

**To volunteer in AHIMA's exam development activities send email to [SME@AHIMA.org](mailto:SME@AHIMA.org)**

- a. Serving one of the following AHIMA volunteer roles - *ten (10) CEUs per 2-year recertification cycle*:
  - a. **President/Chair, President/Chair-Elect, Secretary, or Treasurer Director, AHIMA Board of Directors**
  - b. **CCHIIM**
  - c. **Commissioner CEE**
  - d. **Council Member**
  - e. **Speaker, Speaker-Elect, AHIMA House of Delegates**
  - f. **Serving as a Component Association board member**
- b. **Serving as an AHIMA volunteer or component association committee volunteer other than those roles specified above, or, in an industry-relevant, non-AHIMA professional or trade association- *five (5) CEUs per 2-year CEU cycle.***
  - 1. NOTE: Volunteer hours are not eligible for rollover CEUs (see CEU Rollover section below). Volunteer recognition applies only for current or past roles that took place during the two- year recertification reporting period. New or additional volunteering activities would be reported in either the first or second year of an individual's two-year recertification cycle, if the volunteering activity occurred during the two-year recertification cycle.
- c. **Advanced research (for example, reading and analyzing material beyond one's knowledge of the subject matter) in a HIIM topic area to support activities associated with an expert panel, workgroup, or task force of AHIMA or its affiliate - *one (1) CEU per each year.***

## 7. Qualifying volunteer activities.

- a. Exam Development activities - Subject Matter Experts that volunteer to participate in AHIMA's certification exam development activities (i.e. Item Writers/Reviewers, Exam Specifications Panelists, Standard Setting Panelists, or CCHIIM Exam Development Committee) - *one (1) CEU for every hour of participation.*
- b. Participation in AHIMA or Component Association townhalls (1) CEU, ineligible for rollover.
- c. Substantive oversight and involvement of Professional Practice Experience (PPE) on behalf of a CAHIIM accredited program - five (5) CEUs per student supervised with a maximum of ten (10) CEUs for student supervision allowed in each recertification cycle.

Substantive oversight and involvement include, but is not limited to:

- Creating a training plan and schedule of activities
- Developing and assigning project(s)
- Providing direction and guidance
- Conducting review of progress and providing feedback
- Conducting student evaluation at the conclusion of the project(s)

Other considerations: CEUs for other individuals assigned as mentors - one (1) CEU for every 60 minutes of direct contact with a maximum of five (5) CEUs (five hours of contact) per student, and a maximum of ten (10) CEUs allowed in each recertification cycle.

- d. Participation in an AHIMA volunteer leader conference, breakout session or work group where learning and skill development occurs.
- e. Visiting AHIMA exhibits at a national or component association meeting – *up to two (2) CEUs per meeting.*
- f. Facilitator for an AHIMA Access Community - five (5) CEUs for one year service, per community, each year of the two-year recertification cycle.

# Non-Qualifying Continuing Education Activities

Examples of activities that do not qualify for CEUs are as follows. The list is illustrative and not intended to be all-inclusive.

- Responsibilities that fall within the normal parameters of an individual’s job description, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) staff meetings; (2) grand rounds; (3) preparation for and/or participation in accreditation and licensure surveys; (4) preparation of procedure, policy, or administrative manuals; (5) conducting tours; (6) participation in career day activities; (7) development of employee and staff training materials.
- Exam preparation activities. CEUs can only be reported for certification maintenance or enhancement on dates obtained after the individual’s initial certification date. Exam preparation for additional certifications cannot be applied to currently held certifications for the purpose of maintenance or enhancement requirements.
- Published materials and/or presentations developed as a direct part of an individual’s employment.
- Serving in a volunteer leadership role for any other professional organization unrelated to HIIM.
- Instructing or teaching a class.
- Summarizing articles, audiotapes, or video.

## CEU Rollover

Certificants are allowed to carry over up to 20% of additional CEUs earned (beyond the minimum amount required) within the last three months of a certified professional’s current recertification period. For CEUs to qualify for this rollover opportunity, they must come from AHIMA, a Component Association (CA), an AHIMA trainer teaching to their designation, or an AHIMA Approved Continuing Education Provider Program (ACEP) provider, and be aligned with a HIIM domain. The certified professional must have met ALL CEU requirements and paid ALL corresponding fees before their current recertification period concludes.

CEUs REQUIRED	MAX ROLLOVER CEUs ALLOWED
20	4
30	6
40	8
50	10

**Example #1:** If I am required to report 30 CEUs and only report 30 CEUs, then there are none available to rollover.

**Example #2:** If I am required to report 30 CEUs and I report 40 CEUs, then I can rollover 20% of the excess 10 CEUs (2), as long as they come from AHIMA, a CA, or an ACEP provider (and are aligned with a HIIM domain.)

**Example #3:** If I am required to report 30 CEUs and I report 50 CEUs, then I can rollover 20% of the excess 20 CEUs (4), as long as they come from AHIMA, a CA, or an ACEP provider (and are aligned with a HIIM domain.)

## Entering your CEUs

To recertify, you must enter the required number of CEUs and submit the documentation (such as certificates of completion or academic transcript) and pay the recertification fee online in your MyAHIMA account - CEU Center. On the last day of your recertification cycle, your account will automatically be reviewed by the system to determine if you have met all applicable recertification requirements. If you have met the recertification requirements, your cycle will roll over to the subsequent two-year recertification cycle.

If you do not meet your recertification requirements by the due date, your cycle will roll into the Inactive period. To avoid penalty (including extension fees and a permanently revoked credential), recertification requirements must be met no later than the last day of your recertification cycle end date.

Please log into your MyAHIMA account - CEU Center to track your recertification progress.

**Previously submitted learning experiences for accumulating additional CEUs is not allowed under any circumstances.** All AHIMA certified professionals are subject to recertification audit (see audit information on page 21) individuals who submit previous learning experiences for accumulating additional CEUs will have these experiences removed from their CEU Center.



# RECERTIFICATION FEES

---

The cost of your recertification fees will be based on your membership status. All recertification fees are due on a biennial basis and are non-refundable. Recertification fees will be invoiced in the AHIMA CEU Center and payments must be made by or before your recertification cycle end date. All CEUs must be entered into your CEU center before paying the recertification fee.

Single Credential (Non-Members)	Extension Fee (Per Credential)
\$218.00	\$50.00
Each Additional Credential (Non-Members)	Single Credential (Emeritus Members ONLY)
\$50.00	\$50.00
Extension Fee (Per Credential Non-Members)	Each Additional Credential
\$50.00	\$10.00
Single credential (all members excluding emeritus members)	Reinstatement Fee (Members & Non-Members)
\$100.00	\$368.00
Each Additional Credential	
\$20.00	

\* If you paid fee(s) that are owed to AHIMA (e.g., recertification, exam registration, recertification extension) and the funds are revoked, disputed, or declined due to insufficient funds, your credential will be placed in a Revoked status until the fee(s) and any additional fees are paid in full.

# CERTIFICATION STATUS

---

## Status Types

- a. **Active:** Active status is based on meeting the recertification requirements within the two (2) year recertification cycle.
- b. **Inactive** (Inactive Period): is based on failure to complete the recertification requirements within the two (2) year recertification cycle. Inactive status lasts for six months. Inactive Period, after which the status moves to temporarily revoked if recertification requirements are not met (see details of temporarily revoked status below). The credential(s) may not be used during the period of inactive status.

To re-activate an Inactive credential to Active status, credential holders must meet the original recertification requirements and pay the recertification extension fee for each credential.

- c. **Temporarily Revoked** (Reinstatement period): Temporarily revoked status is based on failure to complete the recertification requirements within the six-month inactive period. Temporarily revoked status lasts for six (6) months following the last day of the inactive period. The credential(s) may not be used during the period. During the Reinstatement Period:
  - The credential(s) is considered revoked.
  - A reinstatement fee will be added to the credential holder's account once the CEU requirement has been met.
  - CEUs earned during the first twelve (12) months of the recertification cycle will become non- applicable to reinstate the credential.
  - CEUs earned during the second twelve (12) months of the two-year recertification cycle until the reinstatement end date can be reported.
  - If recertification requirements are not met by the Reinstatement period end date, the credential will be permanently revoked.
- d. **Permanently Revoked:**
  - Based on failure to complete recertification requirements within the two (2) year recertification cycle, the six (6) month inactive period, and the six (6) month reinstatement period. There are six months between each status period. Individuals may not use the applicable credential(s) once they have been permanently revoked.

- Based on CCHIIM Review Panel or AHIMA Professional Ethics Committee decision regarding misconduct.
- e. **Retired:** Based on the voluntary request of a fully retired individual who is no longer working in the field of HIIM. The individual may retire and begin work in the field unrelated to HIIM ***so long as he or she no longer holds any HIIM responsibilities***. The individual's credential(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the request. Retired requests must be submitted via email. Requests can be submitted to [Certification@ahima.org](mailto:Certification@ahima.org). Requests to un-retire a credential can only be done once every five (5) years. To re-activate a retired credential, the credential must be retired for a period of at least 24 months and must take the current exam for each credential being un-retired. Re-activation requests can be submitted to [Certification@ahima.org](mailto:Certification@ahima.org). An individual falling under the retired status must use the term "retired" following his or her credential to differentiate from the Active Status credential, e.g., John Smith, RHIA (Retired).
- f. **Voluntarily Relinquished:** Based on a voluntary request of an individual who no longer wishes to maintain his or her credential and voluntarily withdraws from the recertification process. The individual's credential(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the request. Voluntarily relinquished requests must be submitted via email. Requests can be submitted to [Certification@ahima.org](mailto:Certification@ahima.org). Once a credential has been voluntarily relinquished it cannot be placed back into an active status. The candidate must take and pass the certification again to re-activate the credential.

Individuals must remove the applicable credential(s) from all signatures, business cards, and may not use any certificates or badging to indicate that they are certified once the credential(s) have been voluntarily relinquished

# REINSTATING A CREDENTIAL

---

## Reinstatement of Credentials

Individuals whose credential(s) has been temporarily revoked can complete the reinstatement process by following the instructions below.

### Option A: Reactivate by Continuing Education

- a. Obtain and submit the required number of CEUs into your CEU Center. During the Reinstatement period the credential(s) is considered revoked. ***CEUs earned from the half-way point of the two-year recertification cycle until the reinstatement end date can be reported. CEUs earned and reported during the first twelve (12) months of the recertification cycle will become non-applicable to reinstate the credential.*** If recertification requirements are not met by the Reinstatement period end date, the credential will be permanently revoked. Pay the appropriate reinstatement fee by logging into your CEU Center.

### Option B: Reactivate by Exam

- a. Retake the applicable certification exam and pass.

Note: CEUs accumulated after the end of the previous recertification cycle can be reported to reactivate a credential. However, these CEUs cannot be used or reported for the next recertification cycle. Certificants who report or use CEUs accumulated after the recertification cycle end date to reactivate their credential(s) will automatically be placed on the audit list for next cycle.

The individual will be placed in the subsequent two-year recertification cycle following reinstatement within 72 business hours.

**\* Based on your credential hierarchy order, your primary credential must be reinstated first or in an active status before any other credential(s) will be reinstated.**

# RECERTIFICATION APPEAL PROCESS

---

Individuals may appeal the permanent revocation of their credential due to failure to meet CCHIIM recertification requirements. Appeals to CCHIIM by a credentialed professional are strictly limited to disputes regarding permanent revocation.

- Appeal applications can only be submitted once every ten (10) years per credential.
- Appeal applications can only be submitted within ninety (90) days once your credential is permanently placed in a revoked status.
- The appeal application is \$100.00 and is non-refundable.
- The fee must be paid in full before your appeal application will be filed and reviewed by the CCHIIM Review Panel (CRP).

The appeal application and additional information can be found on the AHIMA website.

[https://ahima.org/media/25llf2sd/recertification-appeal-application\\_final052021.pdf](https://ahima.org/media/25llf2sd/recertification-appeal-application_final052021.pdf)

# ADDITIONAL RECERTIFICATION PROCESSES

---

## Audits

In Quarter 1 of each year an audit is conducted. A stratified random sample of certificants from each certification are selected, and individuals selected for audits are notified via email. Certificants will be required to submit verifiable documentation (for example, certificates of attendance or similar materials) for each activity listed in the CEU Center by the due date specified on the audit notification material.

Individuals who fail to respond to the audit request by the specified due date, or are found to have submitted nonapplicable information, may be denied recertification.

Verifiable documentation can include certificates of attendance, Component Association reporting form, or other documents that state the participant's name, participation date and number of CEUs earned.

***It is therefore strongly recommended that certified individuals retain a hard or electronic copy of all records in their files for at least two (2) years following the recertification cycle end date.***

## Audit Timeline

1. Late January: The audit list is randomly generated.
2. Early February: Emails are sent out to all individuals selected for audit.
3. Late March: All submissions due.

## Waiver of Recertification Requirements

CCHIIM may, for a good cause, waive or reduce the CEU requirement. Certificants may request a temporary waiver by submitting a written request to CCHIIM at [certification@ahima.org](mailto:certification@ahima.org) for consideration.

- a. For those on a two-year CALENDAR cycle, requests for temporary waivers must be received on or after July 1st and on or before December 1st of your recertification cycle end date. For example, if your recertification cycle is January 2023 - December 2025, then your temporary waiver request must be received on or after July 2025, and on or before December 2025.

For those on a two-year ANNIVERSARY cycle, requests for temporary waivers must be received during the last 6 months of your recertification cycle end date. For example, if your recertification cycle is April 1st, 2023- March 31st, 2025, then your temporary waiver request must be received on or after October 1st, 2024, and on or before March 1st, 2025.



# SUNSET CREDENTIALS

---

## Sunset Credentials

AHIMA no longer offers examination of these sunset credentials; therefore, the recertification maintenance is no longer required.

Credential	Year Sunset
Physician Coding Specialist (PCS)	2001
Certified in Healthcare Security (CHS)	2007
Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP)	2008
Certified in Healthcare Technology Specialist (CHTS)	2018
Certified Professional in Health Informatics (CPHI)	2018

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

## What is recertification?

Recertification (maintenance of an AHIMA certification) is a process that ensures AHIMA-certified professionals demonstrate ongoing competence in the domain areas in which they are certified, through primary, academic or enhancement activities.

## What is certification maintenance?

Certification maintenance is the completion of educational programs that provide updated training and skills to allow continued competence in HIM by earning the required number of CEUs in any of the HIM domains.

## What is the initial recertification cycle?

For individuals certified on December 12, 2024, and after, the initial recertification cycle for newly credentialed certificants (first credential obtained) is two years beginning on the day the credential is awarded, which is also the date the certification exam was passed.

**Example:** If you passed the CCS examination on January 8, 2024, your recertification cycle begins on January 8, 2024, and ends on January 7, 2026, for a period of (2) years. CEUs earned during this period can be reported when you recertify.

## What if I am a RHIA or RHIT early tester—when does my initial recertification cycle begin?

Once your transcript is reviewed and eligibility is confirmed, your recertification cycle begins the day your transcript is approved. You will have up to a year from the time the exam is passed to submit your official transcript. If transcripts are not received within the allotted time period, the exam will have to be retaken and passed.

## What do I need to do to recertify or maintain my certification status?

To recertify or maintain your certification, you will need to earn and report the required amount of CEUs and pay your recertification fee(s) within your recertification cycle. This can be done by logging into your CEU Center.

I currently have only one (1) AHIMA credential. How many CEUs must I accumulate during the reporting period?

**CEU Requirements for Single Credential**

If You Have a(n)...	You Must Earn...
Certified Coding Associate (CCA)	20 CEUs
Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)	20 CEUs
Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS- P)	20 CEUs
Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)	30 CEUs
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)	20 CEUs
Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)	30 CEUs
Certified Documentation Integrity Practitioner (CDIP)	30 CEUs

I currently have multiple (two or more) AHIMA credentials. How many CEUs must I accumulate during the reporting period?

**CEU Requirements for Multiple Credentials**

If you have more than one AHIMA credential, you must earn ten (10) additional CEUs per credential during your two-year recertification cycle, up to a maximum of fifty (50) CEUs. These CEUs may not be duplicated or used for more than one credential. Below are examples.

Credential	Required Number of CEUs
CCS and CCS-P	(20 + 10) 30
CHPS with RHIT	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CHDA	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CDIP	(30 + 10) 40
RHIA with CCS and CCS-P	(30 + 10 + 10) 50
CHDA with CCS, CHPS, and CDIP	(30 + 10 + 10+ 10) 50
RHIA with CCS, CCS-P, CHDA, and CDIP	(30 + 10 + 10+ 10 + 10) 50

## How can I learn “AHIMA” CEUs?

AHIMA members have many opportunities to earn CEUs through meetings, audio, webinars, distance learning courses, and other activities that qualify for CEUs. AHIMA CEUs are obtained by participation in educational activities presented by AHIMA, HCPro and its family of brands, Component Associations and Trainers teaching to their designation.

## Can I use CEUs earned through organizations other than AHIMA?

Yes. AHIMA accepts CEUs earned through other organizations, provided they qualify as valid CEU activities and are relevant to HIIM. See the CEU Activities section for additional details on accepted CEUs and calculation methods.

## Can I get CEUs for college courses?

Yes. AHIMA accepts CEUs earned through participation in formal educational programs of study that address subject areas related to HIIM. Please note you cannot use courses taken prior to your certification. See the CEU Activities section for additional details on accepted CEUs and calculation methods.

## Can I earn AHIMA CEUs by earning another AHIMA certification?

Yes. You can earn six (6) CEUs for obtaining an additional AHIMA certification, and three (3) CEUs for obtaining an AHIMA microcredential.

## How can I find out how many AHIMA CEUs I have earned?

CEUs earned directly through an AHIMA activity where badges are used, such as at the AHIMA annual conference, will be automatically recorded in your AHIMA CEU Center. We strongly encourage certificants to double check automatically added CEUs to ensure accuracy.

Other AHIMA activities and non-AHIMA earned CEUs must be manually recorded in your AHIMA CEU Center. The CEU Center tracks how many CEUs you have earned within your current recertification cycle.

## What fees are required for renewing my certification?

### **For AHIMA-Certified Nonmembers:**

Single Credential

- Primary credential fee of \$218 per cycle

### **Multiple Credentials**

Primary credential (based on credential hierarchy) fee, plus \$50 for each additional credential per cycle.

## Examples:

### 1. RHIA supersedes RHIT

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$218 recertification fee for RHIA

Based on credential hierarchy, the RHIA credential replaces the RHIT.

### 2. CCS supersedes CCA

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$218 recertification fee for CCS
- Two-year total fees = \$218

Based on credential hierarchy, the CCS credential replaces the CCA.

### 3. RHIA and CHDA

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$218 recertification fee for RHIA, plus \$50 recertification fee
- Total fees = \$268

### 4. RHIT, CCS, and CCSP

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$218 recertification fee for RHIT plus \$50 recertification fee per credential
- Two-year total fees = \$318

## For AHIMA Members:

The cost of your recertification will be based on your membership status.

## What should I do with my CEU documentation?

You are required to upload CEU documentation (attendance certificate, academic transcript, Component Association statement) when adding your CEUs. For your own convenience, in case you are selected for a random audit of your reported CEUs, you should upload all CEU documentation into your CEU Center at the time you report your CEUs. In addition, you should retain all documentation for two (2) full years past your certification renewal date, in the event you are audited.

## Do CEUs carry over from one reporting period to another?

Up to 20% of additional CEUs earned (beyond the minimum amount required) within the last three months of a certified professional's current recertification period may be eligible for rollover into the next reporting period. For CEUs to qualify for this rollover opportunity, they must come from AHIMA, HCPro and its family of brands, a Component Association (CA), AHIMA Trainers teaching to their designation or an AHIMA Approved Continuing Education Program (ACEP) provider.

## What if I do not have enough CEUs to recertify or maintain my certification?

If you do not report the required number of CEUs and pay the appropriate recertification fee(s) by the end of your recertification cycle, your credential(s) will be placed in an Inactive status. Your account will be charged a recertification extension fee for each credential. AHIMA provides a six (6) month window (the inactive period) for credential holders to meet the recertification requirements before the revocation process begins.

## What is the yearly audit?

To ensure high standards of competency and continuing education, AHIMA will conduct an annual audit. A randomly selected percentage sample of recertification forms submitted from the prior reporting period will be sampled. The audit will be conducted at each credential level. If audited, you will be required to provide documented proof of all CEU activity reported during the reporting period to AHIMA within 30 days. We strongly encourage you to upload all attendance documentation to your CEU Center.

If you are unable to provide documented proof within 30 days, your certification will be considered permanently revoked. All audit paperwork is reviewed for completeness and accuracy by AHIMA certification staff. If all CEU activity documentation is successfully submitted by the due date, you will be notified via email that you have successfully met the audit requirements.



# APPENDIX A—HIIM DOMAINS

---

**HIIM Professional Domain Definition:** HIIM improves the quality of healthcare by ensuring the most timely and accurate information is available to make any healthcare decision. HI professionals manage healthcare data and information resources. The profession encompasses services in planning, collecting, aggregating, analyzing, and disseminating individual patient and aggregate clinical data. It serves the following healthcare stakeholders: patients, providers, patient care organizations, research and policy agencies, payers, and other healthcare-related entities.

Eighty (80) percent of required recertification CEUs must be earned within the HIIM domains. The remaining twenty (20) percent can include participation in CEU activities on topics not included in the domains but relevant to the credential holder's professional position.

The CCHIIM provides the following list of examples of educational experiences. These educational experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

## Domain I. Data Structure, Content, and Information Governance

Data content, structure and standards help create the framework for an optimal health record and effective information exchange between healthcare providers. This is achieved by establishing clear guidelines for acceptable values, data sources, and how information is technically captured, processed, accessed, archived/ stored, and retrieved for specified data fields. It focuses on information systems, informatics principles, and information technology as it is applied to the continuum of healthcare delivery.

### Examples:

- a. Principles and applications of classification, taxonomies, nomenclatures, terminologies, clinical vocabularies, content related to diagnostic and procedural classification and terminologies, such as: ICD-10-CM/PCS, ICD-11, CPT, HCPCS, SNOMED, DMS-V, ICF
- b. HIIM Software applications: Encoders, Groupers, Computer Assisted Coding tools, speech recognition, CDI and ROI applications, EHRs
- c. Technology design, architecture, and infrastructure: Cloud technologies, interfaces, encryption, firewalls, operating systems, patient and physician portals
- d. Standards: HL-7, UHDDS, HIPAA

## Domain II. Information Protection: Access, Disclosure, Archival, Privacy and Security

Establish, evaluate, and maintain policies and protocols for protecting healthcare information to govern systems and processes that generate, collect, store, transmit, use, archive, and disposition of data and information.

### Examples:

1. Healthcare law and regulations and terminology related to access, disclosure, archival, privacy and security
2. Policy and procedure development, evaluation and maintenance for the following:
  - Privacy, security, and confidentiality
  - Record and data access and disclosure management
  - Data security
  - Data archiving
  - Patient portals
  - Release of information
3. Security and privacy risk assessment, analysis, mitigation and management
4. E-Discovery
5. Business continuity planning such as offsite storage, servers and backup systems
6. Personal health information

## Domain III. Informatics, Analytics, and Data Use

Defines how health information is manipulated and utilized by the organization and shared to external entities, including but not limited to budgeting projections, long-term service line planning, forecasting healthcare needs of an organization's patient population, resources used, etc. Data analysis is the process of transforming data into information for decision making.

### Examples:

1. Manipulation of available data
2. Record tracking
3. Data quality assessment (validity, reliability, completeness, timeliness and accuracy)
4. Data (internal and external) importing and exporting
5. Data exploration and mining
6. Statistical analysis of healthcare data
7. Data display and reports
8. Data extraction and transmission to internal and external entities (billing, registry reporting, quality measure reporting, vital statistics, statewide administrative databases, etc.)
9. Health Information Systems (HIS) architecture refers to the framework that organizes and designs health information systems. It encompasses the hardware, software, networks, and data storage used to manage and process patient information. This architecture is typically divided into three main components: data collection and storage, data processing and analysis, and data presentation and access.

## Domain IV. Revenue Cycle Management

Management and oversight of all business, administrative and clinical functions that contribute to patient revenue from point of entry through payment and adjudication. This may include insurance processing, registration, eligibility, claims management, billing, collections, and denials.

### Examples:

1. Payment methodologies and systems
2. Billing processes and procedures
3. Bill scrubbers, MCE and NCCI
4. Local and national coverage determinations
5. Insurance models and trends
6. Interaction with payers (insurance plans)
7. Appeals and denials management
8. Revenue collection from patients
9. Cost reporting, budget variances, budget speculation
10. Cost benefit analysis
11. Payer contracting
12. Case mix management
13. Value based purchasing programs
14. Hospital-acquired conditions and POA
15. Clinical documentation improvement—reimbursement focus

# Domain V. Health Law and Compliance

The process of establishing an organizational structure that promotes the prevention, detection, and resolution of instances of conduct that do not conform to federal, state, or private payer healthcare program requirements or the healthcare organization's ethical and business policies.

## Examples:

1. Healthcare law and regulations related to coding, clinical documentation, billing and data reporting
2. Industry endorsed ethics, guidelines and directives related to coding, clinical documentation, billing and data reporting
3. Policy and procedure development, evaluation and maintenance related to billing, coding, clinical documentation, and data reporting
4. Accreditation standards, policies and procedures
5. Patient safety
6. Risk management

# Domain VI. Organizational Management and Leadership

Utilizing skills and tools to manage, guide, improve operations, provide innovative solutions based on health data, decision support expertise, and support patient safety and quality initiatives which ultimately lead to greater trust and transparency within organizations and healthcare in general.

## Examples:

1. Professional and practice-related ethical issues
2. Managed care operations
3. Negotiation techniques
4. Workflow reengineering, workflow design techniques
5. Leadership development
6. Performance improvement models
7. Training and development
8. Work design
9. Employee hiring and retention
10. Effective communication
11. Managing remote staff and functions
12. Lean management systems
13. Project management



## Domain VII. Clinical Foundations

Understand human anatomy and physiology; the nature of disease processes; and the protocols of diagnosis and treatment of major diseases, to include common drugs and laboratory and other tests used for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Practice the ability to apply this knowledge to the reading, coding, and abstracting of medical information to support quality patient care and associated databases.

### Examples:

1. Medical terminology
2. Anatomy and physiology
3. Pathophysiology
4. Pharmacology
5. Diagnostic and laboratory testing
6. Ancillary services
7. Telemedicine
8. Medical and surgical procedures

## Domain VIII: Evolving Topics/Other HIIM Relevant Topics

Emerging topics that arise as part of the healthcare ecosystem as it transitions to keep pace with new regulations, technologies, and other changes in the industry.

### Examples:

1. Coding and Revenue Cycle
2. Risk Adjustment Factor (RAF)
3. Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC)
4. Pay for Performance
5. Informatics (Computer Assisted Technology (CAT)
6. Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)
7. Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)
8. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
9. Regulations with new technology