A HIM Major within an IT Degree: Proposed New Course at the University of Western Sydney

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Revolutionary or Evolutionary?

- UWS has an existing Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology
- Offered through School of Computing, Engineering and Maths
- B.ICT has 24 units – 16 core + 8 electives
- HIM Major would be taken as part of this degree through selection of 8 specified electives

Is this revolutionary or a natural progression?
B.ICT Competency Areas

- Professional Communication
- Analysis & Design
- Maths & Stats
- Database
- Programming
- Web Development
- Networks

Core: 16 units
Electives: 8 units

HIM MAJOR
HIM Major (units of study)

- Introduction to Health Informatics
- Health Data Environments
- Healthcare Software and Systems
- Activity Based Funding/Casemix & Data Quality
- Fundamentals of medicine & medical terminology
- Clinical Classification and Coding
- Advanced Clinical Classification & Terminologies
- Managing Health Information and People

A combination of existing and new units
HIM Competency Mapping

- Proposed unit content has been mapped to recently released HIM competencies
- ICT units already cover privacy and security of information and ethics as standard topics
- Additional requirements included as extra topics in existing units or in new units to be developed
- Material equivalent to intermediate acute care coding as well as a broader classification knowledge
- New UWS unit on ABF/Casemix and Data Quality to be made available to HIMAA
Other Key Information

- B.ICT already accredited with the Australian Computer Society
- HIMAA accreditation also being sought
- First dual accredited HIM qualification in the world
- Can be taken as a standalone major by students in other schools (ie: Health Sci) (but not accredited)
- Proposed start first semester 2014
- Sub-major in Clinical Classification also being considered
Benefits of an ICT trained HIM

- Improved communications/negotiations with IT teams
- Knowledge conduit between IT, Clinical and Management areas
- Better analytical skills for identifying data collection and reporting improvements
- Increased input into health information systems design projects
- HIM section can write their own queries
- Improved support for transition to PCEHR environment
Questions??

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