

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BACHELOR OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (Honours)  
2009**

**Objectives**

- (a) To provide a course designed to prepare graduates for the increasing challenges of managing health information in the rapidly changing health care environment; and
- (b) To provide students enrolled in the Bachelor of Health Information Management who have appropriate academic ability, with the opportunity to continue their studies at a higher academic level and to develop their theoretical knowledge and research skills.

**Expected vocational outcomes**

The honours program will better equip graduates to undertake increasingly specialised and complex roles in clinical and management data analysis, health informatics and information management, and epidemiological and related research.

**Admission requirements**

Students must be currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Health Information Management (pass) degree. Students will be invited to undertake the honours program according to academic merit. The minimum requirement for selection is an average of 65% in core second and third year subjects (including third year Health Informatics and Health Classification). The annual intake is expected to be five students.

**Course Structure**

The honours program runs concurrently with the first semester of the undergraduate fourth year and continues in the second semester of that year. The subjects listed below must be completed in the honours year. Students may enrol on a full-time or part-time basis.

Sem	Unit Code	Unit Title	CP
1	PHE4RMH	Research Methods in Health 4	15
1	PHE4THA	Thesis Preparation	15
1	HIM4MHF *	Management of Health Information Systems F	15
plus			
1	HIM4HCE *	Health Classification E	15
	OR		
1	HIM4HIF *	Health Informatics F	15
2	PHE4THB	Thesis	60
<b>Total</b>			<b>120</b>

\* Units also taken in final year of Pass degree

Students may be permitted to over-enrol but need approval of BHIM Honours Co-ordinator (ie if they want to take both Health Classification and Health Informatics in Semester 1, Year 4.)

**SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS**

Students may be eligible for either of the following:

- Commonwealth Learning Scholarship
- La Trobe University Honours Year Grant

#### ***PHE4RMH Research Methods in Health 4***

**Credit Points:** 15.0

**Unit Description:** In this unit students develop advanced skills in a range of quantitative and qualitative research approaches directly applicable to research and evaluation in the health sciences, as a preparation for an honours thesis. Students are introduced to advanced health research and evaluation skills, citation standards, advanced literature review techniques, preparation of ethics applications, preparation and defence of the thesis protocol, and skills in thesis writing. Data analysis techniques relevant to the student's thesis are discussed.

**Class Requirements:** 39-hours of lectures and workshops.

**Assessment:** One 4,500 word methodology 100%

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#### ***PHE4THA Thesis Preparation***

**Credit Points:** 15.0

**Unit Description:** In this unit, students identify a significant research issue and, under supervision conduct a critical review of the literature relevant to the area of study. Students derive appropriate research questions, develop an appropriate research methodology, and prepare a project proposal and Ethics Committee submission. This unit must be taken in conjunction with PHE4THB or equivalent.

**Class Requirements:** Students participate in Project Committee meetings and meet with thesis supervisor on a regular basis.

**Assessment:** One 3,000 word research project proposal 50%  
Ethics Committee submission 50%  
This unit is graded as a pass or fail

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#### ***PHE4THB Thesis***

**Credit Points:** 60.0

**Unit Description:** In this unit, students conduct and report on an original research project that addresses a significant research issue. Under supervision, students are required to conduct the planned study, select and conduct appropriate analyses, and write a report on the project. This unit must be taken in conjunction with PHE4THA.

**Class Requirements:** Students complete the research project under supervision.

**Assessment:** one 10,000-12,000-word thesis, 100%

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## **Research Projects of BHIM Honours Course Graduates**

*An Analysis of the evidence used by Primary Care Partnerships (PCP's) in support of their Community Health Plans* - Nancy Treacy, 2008

*The burden of genetic disorders in an Australian paediatric hospital: comparison over 1985, 1995 and 2007* – Catriona Stanley, 2008

*A Comparison of complication coding in Queensland and Victoria* – Jude Michel, 2008

*A Review of the recording and classification of geographic location in the National Coroners Information System* - Darren Freestone, 2008

*Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander emergency department presentations* – Nadia Costa, 2008

*The Outcomes of reporting and coding of bladder cancer in Victoria* - Angela Nguyen, 2007

*Analysis of the information flow of clinical allergy information within a hospital environment* – David Mangano, 2007

*Analysis of patient identification processes in the Emergency Department of a Victorian Tertiary hospital* - Brooke MacPherson, 2007

*The preparedness of Health Information Services for system failures due to internal disasters* – Cheens Lee, 2007

*Differences in Perinatal Outcomes between Twin and Singleton Births over three time periods in Victoria, Australia* - Meryll Harris, 2007

*The changing Victorian population and its influence on Breastscreen participation by women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities*- Lisa Fuessel, 2007

*The concept of intent within Australian mortality data, and how it is determined, coded and represented within the National Coroners Information System ( with a particular focus on those cases attributable to intentional self-harm)* - Leonie Dodds, 2007

*Clinical documentation in patient care records in Victorian public health services: a survey of standards, training and quality improvement processes* – Jennifer Biggs, 2007

*Trends and survival outcomes of children born with Down Syndrome in Victoria, Australia* - Danielle Youssef, 2006

*Analysis of data from the Victorian Admitted Episodes Data Set to identify the difference in coronary artery bypass grafts performed on non-Indigenous Victorians compared to Indigenous Victorians admitted with a diagnosis of coronary artery disease* – Helen Manos, 2006

*Patterns of complications in acute episodes of lung cancer* - Gayle Cantsilieris, 2005

*Adverse events in admissions for elective surgery in Victorian public hospitals* – Christine Moje, 2005

*Is a purpose designed EHR an appropriate tool for representation of oncology information?* – Ben Spurr, 2005

*The importance of data quality maintenance of the patient master index (PMI): A 'snap-shot' of PMI data quality and data linkage activities in Victorian acute healthcare facilities* - Kelly Williams, 2004

*Methodological quality of randomized controlled trials in prehospital care* - Melissa Soares, 2004

*Organisational factors affecting hospital ICD-10-AM coding quality* - Suong Nguyen, 2004

*The content of admission and discharge summary in relation to quality of care* - Conor Murphy Codognotto, 2004

*A comparison of terms used by clinicians with those contained in clinical coding systems, specifically the International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, tenth revision, Australian modification (ICD-10-AM) and the Systematized nomenclature of medicine – clinical terms (SNOMED-CT).* – Helen Moore, 2003

*Clinical pathways as a recording methodology: Effects upon the clinical coding process and the quality of the coded data.* - Moira Cameron, 1999

*The implementation of ICD-10-AM in Victoria: Coder participation and change acceptance* - Sharnie McIntyre, 1998.

*Linking cancer registrations to hospital morbidity data: A pilot record linkage study* - Sue Douglas, 1996.

*The use of performance measures as a tool for managing quality in health information services: Current use of performance measures and workload statistics for selected activities* - Catherine Perry, 1996.

*Specialised emergency records for disasters used in Victorian public hospitals* - Ross Buchanan, 1993.

*The discharge summary as a communication tool: Analysis of referring general practitioners' needs* - Shahn Campbell, 1993.

*The impact of Diagnosis Related Groups on the traditional role of medical record administrators in Victoria* - Tanya Drake, 1992.

*Is medical record administration a profession? The self-concepts of medical record administrators* - Sue Edmonds, 1992.