To ensure the academic program’s students success, SMC has adapted the following practices:

1. The program is fully online. To ensure students participation, there are two assignments due per week. If a student misses that week’s assignment, they are contacted the following due to remind them of the missed work, and or to get their commitment to continue.

2. To ensure that students don’t lag behind, the assignments have due dates and times after which late submissions receive no credit.

3. A student must attain a 70% overall score to remain in the program. This encourages students to submit all their work.

4. To encourage students’ sense of community, the online discussions require that students review each other’s work and comment on it as part of their assignments in some units. After this is adopted, the students continue to share thoughts and commend each other on the work presented.

5. Since the program is online, then to ensure students on time start from day one, a webinar is held 10 days prior to the start date, where students are shown where to login, how the curriculum is organizes, and an overview of the course content is given.

6. Before the start of each new component, the students are emailed by their instructor to introduce the instructor and provide a gentle reminder that the current component is ending and a new one will start soon.

7. Since the program is intense, and demanding, then student focus is retained by having the students follow a schedule where the components are taught one after the other. There is no overlap between the components time.

8. All the components of one role are contained in the same online course management system under the same general course shell. The only change the students go through as they move from one component to the other, is the change of the faculty.

9. Practical hands-on VistA installation and configuration sessions are provided on campus to support the needs of students who benefit more from instructor-lead sessions. The computer lab is also equipped with the VitsA software so students can practice if they do not have access to a computer at home.

10. A number of industry vendors have offered training sessions of their software to give the students a broader view of EHR packages in the market.

Post graduation, students are continuously contacted via email or voice mail to inform them of the any employment opportunities that become available. Also on the website (www.smc.edu/csis/hit) there is a page for past and current students to visit for info on HITPro certification, along with job-hunting tips.
We also conduct webinars with success stories of past students as guest speakers to present their side of the job search. In these webinars, other industry professionals are also hosted as guest speakers.