

Medical Coding Certificate



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Occupation Overview

Medical coders are some of the most sought-after professionals in the health care industry.

Between now and 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment growth for medical coders and billers to be at least 15%, which is much faster than the average growth for all occupations. Certified medical coding offers a great career with excellent income, strong employment potential and the ability to work from home.

Medical coders, also commonly referred to as health information technicians, organize and manage health information data. They ensure the quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security of health information in paper files, electronic systems, and medical and billing claims. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to record and maintain patients' medical and treatment histories.

Medical coders review health information and convert it into medical codes for billing purposes. Every medical visit results in at least two codes, one for the service provided by the practitioner and another to convey the diagnosis, or reason, for that service. Medical coding professionals ensure that these codes are applied correctly during the billing process and serve as advocates for medical facilities, health practitioners and patients. In maximizing the accuracy of claims and compliance levels, skilled medical coders optimize the billing process and lower health care costs throughout the entire industry.

Job Demand

Medical coding is an "in demand" job for the state of Ohio and certified medical coders have been predicted to hit a national shortage due to the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 and as the field of Health Information Management (HIM) continues to change and evolve in complexity.

Certificate Program

The University of Rio Grande offers a Medical Coding Certificate that not only prepares students to sit for national certification through the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC), but also fully rounds out the students medical coding and billing education, which helps to expand the student's medical office skill set and employment options. A Medical Coding Certificate from the University of Rio Grande is a 31-credit hour program designed to be completed in two semesters, or less than one year. The program starts every fall and completes the following spring semester. The program is currently offered at the institution's main campus and at the Jackson branch and can be completed in-person or as a hybrid in-person/on-line option.

Occupations

Students who obtain a Medical Coding Certificate will be well qualified to obtain a Certified Medical Coding (CMC) credential. They will be prepared for an entry-level career as a remote ED coder, medical coding specialist, medical billing clerk, medical auditing specialist, health information technician, and clinical data specialist, to name a few. They will have the potential to advance into more advanced health information and compliance careers, especially with additional academic instruction. Medical coders work in settings that range from clinics and hospitals, private physician practices, nursing and outpatient care facilities, medical billing services, and home.

The Medical Coding certificate at the University of Rio Grande prepares students for the multifaceted duties and challenges found in today's ever-evolving health information environment. It develops students' interpersonal ("people") skills, prepares them with strategies to take their certification exam, coaches them toward a competitive job search process, and makes them an asset in the workplace from the very first day in their new career.

Medical Coding Certificate

URG/RGCC ONE-YEAR CODING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

FALL			Credit Hours
AHC	20303	ICD Coding	3
AHC	13302	Medical Terminology I	2
AHC	10501	Healthcare Compliance and Ethics	1
AHC	22203	Healthcare Reimbursement	3
PHT	12103	Applied Science for Healthcare Related Careers I	3
ENG	11103	Composition I*	3
TOTAL			15
SPRING			Credit Hours
AHC	21203	CPT Coding	3
AHC	10302	Electronic Health Record	2
AHC	14302	Medical Terminology II	2
LA	20303	Gateway to Workforce	3
PHT	12203	Applied Science for Healthcare Related Careers II	3
COM	11303	Fund. of Speech Communication	3
TOTAL			16

*Placement determined by testing.

MEDICAL CODING COURSES REQUIRED FOR ONLINE AAPC CERTIFICATION EXAM

FALL			Credit Hours
AHC	20303	ICD Coding	3
AHC	13302	Medical Terminology I	2
PHT	12103	Applied Science I	3
TOTAL			8

SPRING			Credit Hours
AHC	21203	CPT Coding	3
AHC	14302	Medical Terminology II	2
PHT	12203	Applied Science II	3
TOTAL			8

The above curriculum is what would be taken by students who only want to prepare for the AAPC (American Academy of Professional Coders) certification exam.

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