

Medical Coding Specialist

31-530-2 Technical Diploma (one-year)

Financial Aid Eligible

Campus: Online



Program Overview

The Medical Coding Specialist reviews medical documentation provided by physicians and other healthcare providers and translates this into numeric codes. The coding specialist assigns and sequences diagnostic and procedural codes using universally-recognized coding systems. Several uses of coded data are for payment of healthcare claims, statistics and medical research.

Special Features

- All courses will be offered online
- The program may be completed in a full-time or part-time format
- Students completing the one-year Medical Coding Specialist program have the option of returning to complete the associate degree Health Information Technology program; see page 112 for information on the Health Information Technology program

Admission Requirements

- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide both a current high school transcript and a final (official) transcript with confer date
- Review and sign Functional Abilities Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech counselor (academic admission requirements apply - see page 30 for more information)

Program-Specific Requirements

- Review and complete the computer skills inventory
- Review Medical Coding Specialist program orientation materials
- Meet with Medical Coding Specialist program advisor to determine program sequencing and completion goals

Program Outcomes

Medical Coding Specialist graduates will be able to:

- Collect health data
- Model professional behaviors and ethics
- Use electronic applications to support coding and data collection
- Apply coding and reimbursement systems

Career Outlook

Typical positions available after graduation include:

- Medical Coding Specialist
- Clinical Coding Specialist
- Claims Analyst

Career Pathway ➤

The Medical Coding Specialist program is a pathway into the following program (page 225):

- Health Information Technology

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
Occupational Specific Courses		
10501107	Digital Literacy for Healthcare	2 cr.
10530159	Healthcare Revenue Management*	3 cr.
10530162	Foundations of HIM*	3 cr.
10530165	Intermediate Coding*	3 cr.
10530182	Human Disease for the Health Professions*	3 cr.
10530184	CPT Coding*	3 cr.
10530197	ICD Diagnosis Coding*	3 cr.
10530199	ICD Procedure Coding*	2 cr.
Occupational Specific Total		22 cr.
Occupational Supportive Courses		
10501101	Medical Terminology	3 cr.
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology#	4 cr.
Occupational Supportive Total		7 cr.
TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		29 cr.

* Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

See pages 35-38 for course descriptions.

You must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course repeat policies exist that allow for only a certain number of retakes within this program; please refer to the policies for details

Course Descriptions

(See pages 35-38 for General Studies course descriptions)

10501101

Medical Terminology - Credits: 3

Focuses on the component parts of medical terms: prefixes, suffixes and word roots. Students practice formation, analysis and reconstruction of terms. Emphasis on spelling, definition and pronunciation. Introduction to operative, diagnostic, therapeutic and symptomatic terminology of all body systems, as well as systemic and surgical terminology

10501107

Digital Literacy for Healthcare - Credits: 2

The focus of this course is the use of technology in healthcare. Learners use common business software applications, including word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and databases. Communication methods using technology are addressed. Learners gain experience with using the electronic health record (EHR). Healthcare EHR security issues, social media use, and digital healthcare resources are examined. Computer skills proficiency developed as a part of this course.

10530159

Healthcare Revenue Management - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to compare and contrast health care payers and evaluate the reimbursement cycle and compliance with regulations. Learners assign payment classifications with entry level proficiency using computerized encoding and grouping software. COREQUISITES: 10530162 Foundations of HIM, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions, 10530184 CPT Coding, 10530197 ICD Diagnosis Coding, and 10530199 ICD Procedure Coding.

10530162

Foundations of HIM - Credits: 3

Introduces learners to the healthcare delivery system, and the external forces that influence healthcare delivery. Sets an understanding for the expectations and standards related to professional ethics, confidentiality and security of health information. Differentiates the use and structure of healthcare data elements, data standards, and the relationships between them. Prepares learners to collect and maintain health data to ensure a complete and accurate health record. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITE: 10501107 Digital Literacy for Healthcare.

10530165

Intermediate Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares students to assign ICD and CPT/HCPCS codes supported by medical documentation and official coding guidance to support appropriate reimbursement. Students will participate in CDI activities, including preparation of appropriate physician queries in accordance with compliance guidelines. PREREQUISITES: 10530184 CPT Coding and 10530197 ICD Diagnosis Coding and successful completion of COREQUISITE: 10530199 ICD Procedure Coding is required prior to taking Intermediate Coding.

10530182

Human Disease for the Health Professions - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to interpret clinical documentation that they will encounter in a variety of healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on understanding the common disorders and diseases of each body system to include the etiology (cause), signs and symptoms, diagnostic tests and results, and medical treatments and surgical procedures. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530184

CPT Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares learners to assign CPT/HCPCS codes, supported by medical documentation, with entry level proficiency. Learners apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530197

ICD Diagnosis Coding - Credits: 3

Prepares students to assign ICD diagnosis codes supported by medical documentation. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD diagnosis codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. PREREQUISITE: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist and COREQUISITES: 10501101 Medical Terminology, 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10530199

ICD Procedure Coding - Credits: 2

Prepares students to assign ICD procedure codes supported by medical documentation with entry-level proficiency. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD procedure codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. PREREQUISITES: Admission to plan 105301 Health Information Technology or 315302 Medical Coding Specialist 10501101 Medical Terminology, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITE: 10530182 Human Disease for the Health Professions.