

Certificate

Program Description:

The Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) serves as a qualified technician in analyzing and classifying medical data. Using universally recognized coding systems (ICD-9-CM and CPT-4), the CCS assigns codes to diagnoses, injuries and procedures found in the records of patients. The codes are then reported to insurance companies or government agencies for payment/reimbursement of patients' health expenses, medical statistics and research.

This program will enable the student to become familiar with the coding systems, medical terminology and medical background of anatomy and diseases which will give the student a basis on which to build. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a directed practice of 120 hours in a healthcare setting. This course will prepare students to sit for the CCS exam administered by the American Health Information Association. Please refer to their Website at www.ahima.org for further qualifications for taking the national certification test for the CCS.

Career Outlook:

Job prospects should be very good. Employment of medical records technicians is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2012, due to rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by third-party payers, regulators, courts, and consumers.

Salary Forecast:

Median annual earnings of medical records technicians were \$25,590 in 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$20,650 and \$32,990. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$17,720, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$41,760. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of medical records and health information technicians in 2004 were as follows:

General medical and surgical hospitals.....	\$26,640
Nursing care facilities	\$26,330
Outpatient care centers	\$23,870
Physicians' offices	\$22,130

Program Admission Requirements:

1. Admission to Mountwest Community & Technical College.
2. Application to program.

Career Description:

Certified Coding Specialists are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records, generally in the hospital setting. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, they must possess expertise in the ICD-9-CM coding system and the surgery section within the CPT coding system. In addition, the CCS is knowledgeable of medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology.

Hospitals or medical providers report coded data to insurance companies or the government, in the case of Medicare and Medicaid recipients, for reimbursement of their expenses. Researchers and public health officials also use coded medical data to monitor patterns and explore new interventions. Coding accuracy is thus highly important to healthcare organizations because of its impact on revenues and describing health outcomes. Accordingly, the CCS credential demonstrates tested data quality and integrity skills in a coding practitioner. The CCS certification exam assesses mastery or proficiency in coding rather than entry-level skills.

Individuals may also contact the American Health Information Association at (312)787-2672 or www.ahima.org

Major Code – CC20

FIRST YEAR¹	
<p>First Semester</p> <p>AH 151 Medical Terminology (EDGE)..... 3</p> <p>ENL 111 Written Communication 3</p> <p>HIT 203 Introduction to Coding 4</p> <p>BIOL 257 Introduction to Anatomy & Physiology¹ (EDGE).. 3</p> <p>TOTAL CREDITS..... 13</p>	<p>Second Semester</p> <p>AH 205 Principles of Disease² 4</p> <p>AH 216 Basic Pharmacology³ 3</p> <p>HIT 204 Advanced Coding Concepts⁴ 4</p> <p>MAT 150 Applied Professional Mathematics⁵ 3</p> <p>TOTAL CREDITS 14</p>
<p>Third Semester (Summer)</p> <p>HIT 215 Directed Practice..... 2</p> <p>HIT 220 Coding for CCS Exam 3</p> <p>TOTAL CREDITS..... 5</p>	
<p>HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 32</p>	

Employment Opportunities:

- Acute care facilities
- Ambulatory care facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Physicians' offices
- State and local health departments
- Insurance companies
- Professional billing companies

Earn A Degree Graduate Early (EDGE):

This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

Contact Information:

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1. Students who plan to ladder into the A.A.S. in Health Information Program would take BIOL 260 in place of BIOL 257.
 2. AH 205 has a prerequisite of BIOL 257.
 3. AH 216 has a prerequisite of HIT 151.
 4. HIT 204 has a prerequisite of HIT 203.
 5. IT 101 may be substituted for MAT 150.