Certified Coding Specialist   CP

Program Description:

The Certified Coding Specialist serves as a qualified technician in analyzing and classifying medical data. Using universally recognized coding systems (ICD-10-CM/PCS and CPT-4), the Certified Coding Specialist 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 enables the student to become familiar with the coding systems, medical terminology, and medical background of anatomy and diseases that will give the student a basis on which to build. Students also have the opportunity to complete a directed practice of 60 hours in a virtual healthcare environment or healthcare setting. Successful completion of this program will prepare students to sit for the CCA or 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 CCA or CCS.

Career Outlook:

Job prospects should be very good. Employment of health information technicians and certified coders is projected to grow 22 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages. An aging population will need more medical tests, treatments, and procedures. This will mean more claims for reimbursement from insurance companies.

Salary Forecast:

For the most current salary information please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Occupational Outlook Handbook" found at www.bls.gov/ooh/.

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 alphanumeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, they must possess expertise in the ICD-10-CM/PCS coding system and the surgery section within the CPT coding system. In addition, the Certified Coding Specialist is knowledgeable of medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology.

Hospitals or medical providers report coded data to insurance companies or to the government, for 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 CCA and CCS credentials demonstrate 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 (800) 335-5535 or www.ahima.org.

Gainful Employment Information can be found at: http://www.mctc.edu/academics/gainful-employment/

Contact Information:

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Our mission is to prepare students for careers, civic responsibility and life-long learning.

Certified Coding Specialist—Major Code CC20*		
Name:		ID Number 942-
Student Success Counselor:		
Faculty Advisor:		

COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	SEM	HRS	GR	SUBSTITUTE/REPEAT CRS	SEM	CR
	SUMMER SEMESTER						
AH 151	Medical Terminology[1] (EDGE)		3				
BIOL 257	Intro to Anatomy & Physiology		3				
BIOL 259	Basic A&P Lab		1				
	FALL SEMESTER						
AH 205	Principles of Disease[2]		3				
HIT 201	Health Information Technology		4				
HIT 205	ICD-10-cm Diagnostic Coding[3]		4				
HIT 209	CPT Procedural Coding[4]		3				
	SPRING SEMESTER						
AH 204	Legal & Ethical Issues in Healthcare[1]		3				
AH 216	Basic Pharmacology[5]		3				
HIT 206	Healthcare Statistics		3				
HIT 207	ICD-10-PCS Procedural Coding[6]		4				
HIT 211	Coding & Reimbursement for Physician[7]		3				
	SUMMER SEMESTER						
ENL	College Level English or Writing Course[1]		3				
HIT 219	Professional Practice Experience[8]		2				

Hours Required for Graduation: 42

Earn A Degree Graduate Early (EDGE):
This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

[1] AH 151, AH 204 and English elective have a prerequisite of placement in 100-level reading.
[2] AH 205 has a prerequisite of BIOL 257, or BIOL 258, or BIOL 260.
[3] HIT 205 has a prerequisite of BIOL 257/259, AH 151.
[4] HIT 209 has a prerequisites of BIOL 257/259 and AH 151.
[5] AH 216 has a prerequisite of AH 151.
[6] HIT 207 has a prerequisite of HIT 205.
[7] HIT 211 has a prerequisite of HIT 209.
[8] HIT 219 has a prerequisite of HIT 201, HIT 205, HIT 207, HIT 209, and HIT 211.
*All coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.