

Certified Coding Specialist, CAS

Academic Year 2026-2027

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:

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

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.

Contact Information:

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Mountwest empowers students to learn and lead in the community and in the workforce.

Certified Coding Specialist—Major Code CC20

Name:	ID Number 942-
Educational Counselor:	
Faculty Advisor:	

COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	SEM	HRS	GR	SUBSTITUTE/REPEAT CRS	SEM	CR
AH 151	Medical Terminology		3				
BIOL 257/259	Principles of Anatomy & Physiology & Lab		4				
MAT 120	Applied Professional Math ¹		3				
HIT 201	Health Information Tech I		3				
			13				
AH 205	Principles of Disease ²		3				
AH 216	Basic Pharmacology ³		3				
HINF 101	Introduction to Healthcare Informatics		3				
HIT 205	ICD-10-CM/PCS Coding I ⁴		3				
HIT 209	CPT – Procedural Coding ⁵		3				
			15				
COM 125	Interpersonal Communication		3				
HIT 207	ICD-10-CM/PCS Coding II ⁶		3				
HIT 206	Healthcare Statistics ⁷		3				
HIT 211	Coding and Reimbursement for Physician Services ⁸		3				
HIT 219	Professional Practice Experience ⁹		3				
			15				

Hours required for Graduation: 43

¹ MAT 120 has a prerequisite minimum ACT Math score of 19, SAT Math score of 510 or Accuplacer 250+.

² AH 205 has a prerequisite of BIOL 257, or BIOL 258, or BIOL 260.

³ AH 216 has a prerequisite of AH 151

⁴ HIT 205 has prerequisites of BIOL 257/259, AH 151.

⁵ HIT 209 has prerequisites of BIOL 257/259, AH 151

⁶ HIT 207 has a prerequisite of HIT 205.

⁷ HIT 206 has prerequisites of MAT 100, HINF 101.

⁸ HIT 211 has a prerequisite of HIT 209.

⁹ HIT 219 has a prerequisite of HIT 201, HIT 205, HIT 209

***All coursework must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.**