

HEALTH & EDUCATION

MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

Delivery: Online asynchronous

Start: Fall or Spring Semester, Full- or Part-Time

AWARDS

- Medical Coding Specialist A.A.S. Degree 60 cr.
- Medical Coding Specialist Diploma 39 cr.
- Medical Coding Specialist Certificate * 13 cr.

Not Financial Aid eligible

MAJOR DESCRIPTION

Medical Coding Specialist A.A.S. Degree: prepares students for an entry-level professional fee medical coding position as well as prepares the student with skills to advance within the healthcare system. These positions are often offered by physician and non-physician practitioner clinics, acute care hospitals, third party payers, or consulting firms with a need for a medical coder.

The student will have working knowledge of healthcare law and a full understanding of the need to protect patient privacy. Our program utilizes a simulated electronic health record designed with industry standards which facilitates practice in abstracting patient information.

Upon completion of the A.A.S. degree students can code both procedure and diagnosis and are ready to take the American Academy of Professional Coder Certified Professional Coder examination, which is proctored at DCTC. Students will have Leadership knowledge and the communication skills necessary for leadership positions.

Medical Coding Specialist Diploma: prepares students for an entry-level professional fee medical coding position. These positions are often offered by physician and non-physician practitioner clinics, acute care hospitals, or third-party payers. The student will have working knowledge of healthcare law and a full understanding of the need to protect patient privacy. Our program utilizes a simulated electronic health record designed with industry standards which facilitates practice in abstracting patient information.

Upon completion of the diploma students can code both procedure and diagnosis and are ready to take the American Academy of Professional Coder Certified Professional Coder examination.

Medical Coding Specialist Certificate: designed for healthcare employees who have experience in the medical coding revenue cycle, and they wish to gain enough knowledge and practice in coding to sit for the American Academy of Professional Coders, Certified Professional Coder (CPC) exam. This program is designed as well for employers who would like to have employees become certified coders and provide the funding for this education as part of their Corporate Compliance Program or part of employee benefits.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Medical Coding Specialist have a variety of work environments which may include medical primary care offices, urgent care centers, emergency rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, independent diagnostic imaging centers, medical specialty centers, hospitals, third party payers, billing companies, medical consulting firms, or government agencies. Employers may offer 'work at home' programs.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

- Medical Coding Specialist
- Clinical Documentation Specialist
- Health Information Analyst
- Coding Analyst
- Medical Records Technician

SALARY DATA

See latest data at aapc.com/resources/salary-by-credential.

- Average salary for one credential is \$62,689
- Average salary for two credentials is \$71,130
- Average salary for three plus credentials is \$76,035

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scan the QR code for more program information and specific program costs. This program has additional costs for Professional Industry Training access and practice exams.



Our Coding Capstone course is AAPC licensed. Students are taught by a Certified Professional Instructor (CPC-I). This prepares students to sit for the Coder (CPC®) exam through the AAPC. AAPC exam and membership fees apply, however; DCTC medical coding program students receive reduced test and initial annual membership pricing with the AAPC.

AAPC | LICENSED EDUCATION PROVIDER

MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

A.A.S. DEGREE

This is a sample course sequence for a full-time student. All courses are not offered every semester. Please contact your program advisor regarding your academic plans.

First Year - Fall Semester **15 cr**

ADMS1018	Basic Computer Applications	3
MCOD1045	Medical Terminology for Medical Coders	3
MCOD1051	Human Diseases	3
MCOD1361	Health Information Management Essentials	3
MCOD1400	Diagnostic Coding (ICD-10-CM)	3

First Year - Spring Semester **15 cr**

MCOD1390	Intro to Pharmacology	2
MCOD1410	Procedure Coding (AMA CPT)	3
MCOD1430	Legal Principles of Health Information	3
HEAL1101	Anatomy & Physiology	4
PHIL1350	Medical Ethics	3

Second Year - Fall Semester **15 cr**

MCOD1370	Medical Revenue Cycle	3
MCOD1380	Quality & Performance Improvements in Health Care	3
MCOD1421	Leadership in Health Care	3
MCOD1440	Advanced Coding	3
ENGL1150	Composition	3

Second Year - Spring Semester **15 cr**

ADMS1285	Oral Business Communications & Job Seeking Skills	2
MCOD1451	Coding Capstone	4
COMS1020	Interpersonal Communication	3
	General Elective (MnTC Goal 3 or 4)	3
	General Elective (any MnTC Goal 1-10)	3

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 60

MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

DIPLOMA

This is a sample course sequence for a full-time student. All courses are not offered every semester. Please contact your program advisor regarding your academic plans.

First Year - Fall Semester **15 cr**

ADMS1018	Basic Computer Applications	3
MCOD1045	Medical Terminology for Medical Coders	3
MCOD1051	Human Diseases	3
MCOD1361	Health Information Management Essentials	3
MCOD1400	Diagnostic Coding (ICD-10-CM)	3

First Year - Spring Semester **15 cr**

MCOD1370	Medical Revenue Cycle	3
MCOD1390	Intro to Pharmacology	2
MCOD1410	Procedure Coding (AMA CPT)	3
MCOD1430	Legal Principles of Health Information	3
HEAL1101	Anatomy & Physiology	4

Second Year - Fall Semester **9 cr**

ADMS1285	Oral Business Communications & Job Seeking Skills	2
MCOD1380	Quality & Performance Improvements in Health Care	3
MCOD1451	Coding Capstone	4

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 39

MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

CERTIFICATE

Not Financial Aid eligible

First Year - Fall Semester **6 cr**

MCOD1400	Diagnostic Coding (ICD-10-CM)	3
MCOD1410	Procedure Coding (AMA CPT)	3

First Year - Spring Semester **7 cr**

MCOD1051	Human Diseases	3
MCOD1451	Coding Capstone	4

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 13



DAKOTA COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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DCTC IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/EDUCATOR.

This information is available in an alternate format by calling 651-423-8469 or TTY/Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529.