

Medical Coding Specialist Certificate Program



“GOING THROUGH A MEDICAL CODING PROGRAM DOESN’T JUST BOX YOU INTO BEING A CODER; THE KNOWLEDGE OF CODING OPENS THE DOORS INTO ALL VENUES OF HEALTHCARE.”

Yvette DeVay, manager for Parente Randolph, LLC

On a daily basis, there are vast amounts of medical information that pass through every hospital, medical facility and/or medical practice. Whether the information is used for reimbursement, knowledge-based decision support, or statistical analysis of diseases and therapeutic actions, this invaluable medical data needs to be translated accurately, efficiently and effectively.

“When it comes to receiving quality patient care, people don’t realize that medical coding is a vital and integral part of the process,” says Michele Meckley, a medical coder and office coordinator at Littlestown Family Care Center. “We aren’t just looking up codes in a book, there is so much more to it.”

Not to be confused with medical insurance billing technicians, medical coding specialists are knowledgeable, behind-the-scenes professionals who are responsible for translating and sequencing medical documentation into formal standardized, numerical codes for diagnoses and procedures.

“Detail-orientated, analytical individuals interested in healthcare who have a passion for reading, research and compliance, and have a strong sense of doing things correctly tend to gravitate to this field,” says Renee Connor, director of provider relations at Significa Insurance Group.

COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

*Medical Coding Specialist
Certificate Program*

START THE PROCESS

*Are you ready to take
the plunge? If you are
interested in this program
or have questions,
contact Noncredit
Healthcare Education
at (717) 221-1352 or
email mcs@hacc.edu.*



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Individuals who are interested in becoming a medical coding specialist can look no further than their own backyard to HACC, the region's premier provider in educational and workforce development. HACC's Medical Coding Specialist Certificate program, taught by experienced professionals already working in the field, fosters advanced coding skills and prepares students to take certification exams in the field of medical coding.

"This is a perfect profession for people who want to expand their knowledge, get into the healthcare field or move into a higher-paying position," says Connor.

**THESE DAYS GETTING YOUR
CERTIFICATION IS KEY**

Certified medical coders are in high demand and participants who complete HACC's Medical Coding Specialist Certificate program will learn many facets of the coding field and will be ready to take a coding certification exam of their choosing.

"Getting your certification makes students more marketable and allows them to secure a higher salary," says Connor. Expanding medical knowledge, healthcare pathways and resume building are some additional benefits of obtaining certification. Plus, students who already have completed HACC's Medical Insurance Billing Technician Certificate program will only need three more classes to obtain their Medical Coding Specialist Certificate — and can pursue certification.

**STATE OF THE ART PROGRAMS
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

"Medical coding is a very evolving field that is constantly changing. To remain knowledgeable, you always have to be a student, there is always something new to learn everyday," says Connor.

HACC provides programs that will keep healthcare professionals' repertoire of medical knowledge current.

"We provide employability skills and quality customized training to the citizens of Central Pennsylvania in a timely and economical manner," says the dean of HACC's Workforce and Economic Development, Public Safety and Community Education division.

HACC offers affordable and easily accessible classes for those interested in the field of medical coding at the Harrisburg, Gettysburg, Lancaster and Lebanon campuses, along with a few courses via HACC's Virtual Campus.

"This program is very convenient and accessible. I work during the day, so I loved the fact that I could go evenings and on Saturdays," says Meckley.

The program is also extremely affordable. "There is a tremendous value in the cost of the courses for what you receive" by attending HACC, says Connor.

In addition to teaching fundamentals that range from CPT coding, medical terminology and an introduction to anatomy and physiology, the program boasts an important networking component. "Many of our students receive opportunities to start working before they finish the program," says Yvette DeVay, manager for Parente Randolph, LLC.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Establishing meaningful and long-lasting professional connections is important in any industry, and it isn't uncommon for HACC students to find jobs before they finish a program.

"Healthcare is never going to go away; there is always going to be a need for compliance and auditing. There are so many diverse opportunities in this field," says Connor.

With a rapid growth in the number of tests, treatments and procedures that will be scrutinized by a range of industries, medical coders can make family-sustaining wages and find jobs easily. According to the U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics, employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 18 percent through the year 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations.

"Individuals who have this knowledge can build on the skills they already have and can move further into any realm of healthcare," says DeVay. Medical coding specialists can work in a multitude of settings ranging from medical practices, hospitals, coding and billing services, insurance companies and governmental agencies to consulting firms.