



What do medical coding and reimbursement specialists do?

A coding specialist is a type of health information technician who analyzes and codes medical record information for reimbursement purposes. Coding specialists assign codes to each diagnosis and procedure through the use of both manual and electronic classification systems. Medical insurance programs reimburse for medical care based on medical coding. Coding specialists may use several coding systems for hospital, physician, and ambulatory care settings.

What type of skills are needed to excel in this field?

Coding specialists need to possess an excellent attention to detail, be well-organized, punctual, mature and professional, and work well with others.

What is the employment outlook for a coding specialist?

Healthcare information is a fast growing industry. Employment of health information technicians is expected to increase 13 percent from 2016 to 2026. Employment growth will result from increasing numbers of medical tests, procedures, and treatments. Coding specialists that demonstrate a strong understanding of computer technologies will be in particularly high demand (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

What is the estimated salary for a coding specialist?

The median annual wage of health information technicians was \$38,040 in May 2016 (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

Where do coding specialists work?

Coding specialists work in hospitals, physician offices, clinics, and other healthcare settings such as medical insurance companies and quality review organizations.

Are there advancement opportunities for coding specialists?

Coding specialists may advance to managerial or other administrative positions. In addition, some may choose to continue their education and become a registered health information technician (RHIT).

Are there any disqualifying crimes that prevent individuals from working in the field?

Yes, individuals who commit felonies such as murder, assault and battery, sexual assault, prescription drug fraud, drug possession with an intent to distribute, etc., are ineligible for employment as a medical coding specialist.

Is the Medical Coding and Reimbursement Specialist Program accredited?

HCC is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Will I be eligible to take a national credentialing exam?

Students who successfully complete the program are eligible to sit for the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC) Certified Professional Coder-Apprentice (CPC-A) exam and the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Certified Coding Associate (CCA) exam. Following a minimum of one year of employment, coders are then eligible to advance to Certified Professional Coder (CPC) or Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) status.

Does HCC assist with job placement?

HCC has a workplace learning advisor to assist you to improve your job search skills.

How long does it take to complete the program?

Completion time depends on whether the student attends full or part-time. If the student attends full-time, the program can be completed in three semesters. The above time frame is based on the student meeting all prerequisite standards.

Why should I choose HCC?

- Lower tuition and fees compared to other area programs
- HCC's Middle States accreditation allows students to transfer their credits to another educational institution
- Coding classes are taught by coding specialists with many years of experience in the field
- Networking advantages – program faculty members are employed from a variety of healthcare sites in the area
- Required courses are needed in other allied health programs enabling the student to work toward additional certificates at one time

For more information about HCC graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/medical-assistant.

Technical Standards

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards can be found at www.hagerstowncc.edu/health-sciences.

Certificate

Medical Coding and Reimbursement Specialist

This certificate program is designed for the student interested in specializing in a career

in medical insurance coding and billing. Curriculum is structured to provide the student with lecture as well as competency-based training in medical procedural coding and diagnosis coding as well as third party reimbursement procedures. Medical coding and reimbursement certificate students must maintain a grade of “C” or better in all program courses. Students may be required to repeat MAP and/or PLB courses, based upon the time sequence when these program courses were completed. Successful graduates are prepared to pursue positions in medical billing offices, medical collection agencies, and insurance companies. Successful graduates are also eligible to sit for national certification exams as a professional coder and reimbursement specialist.*



Program Requirements		26 credits
BIO 116	Human Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health	3
CSC 102	Introduction to Information Technology....	3
MAP 102	Medical Terminology.....	3
MAP 105	Medical Office Management.....	4
MAP 108	Medical Records Analysis and Coding....	3
MAP 110	Introduction to Health Science Professions and Technology.....	3
MAP 206	Advanced Coding	3
MAP 211	Coding Simulation and Certification Preparation	3

Certificate Requirement26

- * *In order to sit for the national certification exam as a professional coder and reimbursement specialist, graduates must have proof of High School diploma or G.E.D.®*
- * *There is no externship requirement for this certificate.*
- * *Beginning in spring 2014, the Medical Coding & Reimbursement Specialist Program will train students for the upcoming change to the ICD-10-CM version of clinical coding.*

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Recommended Professional Organizations

American Health Information
 Management Association:
www.ahima.org

American Academy of Professional Coders:
www.aapc.com