

MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Banner Code: 2_CT_MCSP

Control Number: 38946

Financial Aid Eligible

The Medical Coding Specialist Program is designed to educate and prepare students for entry-level medical coding jobs. The outpatient/inpatient certificate of achievement provides individuals with the content knowledge and skills needed to abstract and critically analyze medical data for positions in the Health Information Management (HIM) field and the medical technology industry.

With a high demand for medical coders in today's job market, these professionals are considered an essential entity in various healthcare settings such as acute, extended, and long term care facilities, surgical centers, clinics, and physician offices. As a major building block among HIM professionals, medical coders are known as medical language experts who interpret and process health information for health data collection, revenue reimbursement, and research to improve quality of care.

The curriculum emphasizes identified competencies and hands-on integration and use of technology systems seen in many healthcare institutions. Completion of all courses will require a "C" or above to receive the Certificate of Achievement and to sit for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) or American Academy of Procedural Coders (AAPC) certification exams.

Program Level Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, and pathophysiology when coding diagnostic and procedural codes.
2. Examine various classification systems utilized to collect medical data in healthcare facilities.
3. Use common computer and HIM-related software applications for database management techniques.
4. Summarize fundamental knowledge, increase attention to detail, and master application skills as a coding professional.
5. Describe key industry performance indicators of revenue management and their use in performance evaluation.

Certificate of Achievement Requirements

This certificate goes through the State approval process and requires a minimum of 12 units of coursework in a particular academic or occupational area. The certificate programs normally include only those courses which have a direct bearing upon specialized occupational competency since the objective of earning the career certificate is immediate employment in a specialized area. Upon successful completion of the program and completing the application, the student will receive the certificate and be recognized at the graduation ceremony. In order to earn a Certificate of Achievement all courses that apply to the certificate must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" in each course unless otherwise stated. A minimum of 12 units in residence

at GWC is required, and 50 percent of the certificate program must be completed at GWC.

Course	Title	Units
Required Courses		
HIT G103	Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professionals	3
HIT G100	Introduction to Health Information Technology	3
HIT G102	Legal and Ethical Issues in Healthcare	2
HIT G108	Inpatient & Outpatient Diagnostic Coding	3
HIT G110	Inpatient Procedural Coding	3
HIT G205	Medical Coding Specialist Practicum	1
CS G130	Survey Of Computer Science/Information Technology	4
BIOL G221	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	4
HIT G106	Outpatient Procedural Coding	3
HIT G202	Revenue Management	3
BIOL G200	Pharmacology - Medications And Drugs	3
BIOL G160	Physiology And Disease Mechanisms	3
Total Units		35

Recommended Program Sequence

These sequences are general maps for students to finish all requirements for the Certificate. There may be advisories or time requirements that students may want to consider before following these maps. **Students are advised to meet with a GWC Counselor for alternate sequencing.**

Year 1:

Course	Title	Units
Semester 1		
BIOL G221	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIOL G160	Physiology And Disease Mechanisms	3
<i>Units</i>		7

Course	Title	Units
Semester 2		
HIT G103	Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professionals	3
HIT G100	Introduction to Health Information Technology	3
BIOL G200	Pharmacology - Medications And Drugs	3
HIT G108	Inpatient & Outpatient Diagnostic Coding	3
<i>Units</i>		12

Year 2:

Course	Title	Units
Semester 3		
HIT G102	Legal and Ethical Issues in Healthcare	2
HIT G110	Inpatient Procedural Coding	3
HIT G106	Outpatient Procedural Coding	3
HIT G202	Revenue Management	3
<i>Units</i>		11

Course	Title	Units
Semester 4		
HIT G205	Medical Coding Specialist Practicum	1
CS G130	Survey Of Computer Science/Information Technology	4
<i>Units</i>		5