

Medical Coding Studies

A medical coder manages and classifies medical data by assigning a specialized code to each diagnosis and procedure found in a patient's record. These codes designate data such as diseases, operations, diagnostic procedures, and therapies and are reported to other health care professionals and insurance companies. Skilled coders know medical terminology, standard coding classifications, and medical recordkeeping software.

You'll Learn

- Medical terminology used in anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, and surgical procedures
- The use of computers in managing patient records
- Coding classification systems such as CPT and ICD-9
- Current medical recordkeeping software

You'll Earn

- The option to work in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, HMOs, ambulatory care, mental healthcare, rehabilitation/long-term facilities, insurance companies, utilization review agencies, and large group and private medical offices
- Promotions to supervisory and management positions are possible
- Career growth potential through further certification and education
- A career where your skills are in demand—employment opportunities for skilled medical coders have consistently exceeded supply

You'll Succeed

- More than half of all new jobs created require education beyond high school.
- Employees with additional education have better chances for promotion.
- College credit or advanced placement may be given for relevant work experience.
- Credits may be applied to advance your education within the health information technology career field.

Get in, Get smart, Get going. . .

Delaware Tech operates on a semester system with new sessions in late August and mid-January, plus summer sessions beginning at the end of May and mid-June. Non-technology courses may be taken on a part-time or full-time basis during any semester or the summer session. Some students may need refresher courses at the basic or pre-tech level; others may receive transfer credit for prior educational experiences. Counselors and advisors are available to help you schedule your courses.

Allied Health technology programs have a selective admission process, separate from College admission (below), which includes academic criteria of an algebra, biology and chemistry course at 2.5 or greater (high school or college) within the past five years and a GPA of 2.5 or greater. Technology courses are sequential, offered only one time per year and are only open to students who have been admitted into the technology program.

People interested in entering Medical Coding Studies must attend an Allied Health Information Session prior to initiating the process for admission into the technology. Information regarding these sessions may be obtained by calling (302) 283-3100. Visit the Allied Health Web site at www.dtcc.edu/wilmington/ah.

TECHNICAL COURSES

Intro to Medical Records introduces the student to the functions of the medical record department. It will include the content, format and development of the medical record, retention policies and practices.

Inpatient Coding & Reimbursement develops understanding of the principles and applications of inpatient coding and classification systems in order to assign valid diagnostic and/or procedure codes. It includes validation of coded clinical information, case/mix analysis and indexes/severity of illness systems.

Ambulatory Care Coding & Reimbursement includes the use of coded data in reimbursement and payment systems appropriate to ambulatory care settings, and includes procedures, and managed care/capitation systems.

Disease Process/Pathophysiology includes the study of the physiologic and biologic manifestations of disease and the adaptations that the body makes to the changes produced by the disease process.

Medical Coding Practicum is a supervised internship performed in a health care facility which provides the student with experience in Medical Coding applications.

SUPPORT COURSES

Composition
Medical Terminology
Ethical Issues in Health Care
Anatomy & Physiology I, II
Advanced Medical Terminology
Math for Behavioral Sciences
Intro to Computers & Applications

TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

1. Obtain an admission application by calling (302) 283-3100. Admission applications are also available online at www.dtcc.edu/prospective. Complete and return the application to the Wilmington Campus with a \$10 fee.
2. Request that your high school and/or college transcripts be sent to the Wilmington Admissions Office.
3. Arrange to take the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) *unless you have already completed college-level Math and English courses with a "C" grade or better*. The CPT is administered by the Admissions Office (302) 571-5343 and is used to determine appropriate course placement.
4. Meet with a Delaware Tech Wilmington campus counselor to discuss your CPT results and select your course schedule.
5. Remember to apply and register early for the best selection of courses.