

## Medical Coding Studies Program

### Most Frequently Asked Questions

**Award :** Diploma (not Associate Degree)

**Credits to graduate:** 42 college credits + RDG 120 (3 credits) + a CHM pre-requisite.

#### **How long does the program take to complete?**

As a full-time student, one can complete the program in 4 continuous semesters, however most students choose to take the curriculum as a part-time student, therefore it takes longer. Once a student is accepted into the program, the student must complete all remaining courses in the course sequence as they are offered.

#### **Can courses be taken in the evening?**

Core and technical support courses are offered all year long, day and evening. Many are offered using a distance learning format (telecourse or on-line). These courses are bolded on the curriculum check sheet.

The Medical Coding Courses (HIT 100, 120 and 121) are only offered once a year during the evening, in the semester that they are listed on the curriculum check sheet. The Medical Coding practicum (HIT 170) is only offered during the day.

#### **What is the Practicum?**

The Medical Coding Practicum (HIT 170) is 128 hours of medical coding experience in a clinical facility. It is a day offering, but can be offered in any semester. If a student takes it during a 10 week summer session, then there is an average of 13 hrs/week. If it is taken during a 16 week semester (fall and spring), then the average number of hours/week is 8. Hours scheduled are based on the availability at the clinical site.

A student pays for this course, and does not get paid by the clinical facility for participating in the experience. The experience is evaluated by a supervisor on the clinical site and a DTCC faculty member.

#### **What other information do I need to consider prior to scheduling the courses?**

RDG 120- Critical Reading and Thinking is a required course for graduation. There are several ways to become exempt. They include 1) becoming exempt by the score on the College Placement Test (CPT) or 2) having an associate degree or higher, which makes one exempt when the transcript of the degree granting institution is reviewed and approved.

A Chemistry course is required as a pre-requisite for BIO 121. The course must be completed within the past five years. It may include CHM 100 or CHM 110.

Courses from other colleges can be considered for transfer if they are within the past 10 years and have a "C" or better. Math and Science courses must be completed within the past 5 years to be considered for transfer.

A student in this program is required to comply with the Allied Health/Science Department Policy Manual and the policies and procedures that pertain to any technology program. For example: transportation to the clinical site, completing immunization and medical forms. Students are required to use instructional technology and electronic mail as part of their curriculum.

(Revised 2/2009)