

## General Program Description

The Health Care Coding Certificate program prepares students with entry-level skills needed to code, classify, and index diagnoses and procedures for the purpose of reimbursement, standardization, retrieval and statistical analysis. Principles in ICD-9-CM coding, CPT coding, and third-party reimbursement will be emphasized. The courses within the Health Care Coding Certificate program are also applicable to the A.S. in Health Information Technology and the B.S. in Health Information Administration and students may wish to progress into those programs.

An important part of the Coding Certificate Program is the supervised professional practice. This internship is completed at a healthcare facility to provide for hands-on reinforcement of the classroom instruction.

### Skills Developed Through Coursework

Upon completion of the Health Care Coding Certificate, the student will be able to:

- Review health records for completeness and accuracy.
- Identify components of appropriate and adequate documentation of health care.
- Code, classify, and index diagnosis and procedures for the purposes of reimbursement.
- Abstract information from patient records to complete a claim properly.

Graduates of the Health Care Coding Certificate program may wish to write the American Health Information Management Association's certification examination to become a Certified Coding Associate (CCA). Additional credentials may be obtained after gaining work experience and these practitioners may write the examinations to become a Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) or Certified Coding Specialist-Physician-based (CCS-P).

## Required Courses

The following is a list of courses required for all students earning a certificate in Health Care Coding. The courses do not have to be taken in the order listed here, but remember, the prerequisites must be met for each course. Prerequisites are found in the DSU Undergraduate Catalog under Course Offerings.

### Health Care Coding Certificate **34 Credits**

BIOL 151	General Biology I/Lab	4
BIOL 323	Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
CSC 105	Introduction to Computers	3
HIM 130	Basic Medical Terminology	2
HIM 150	Intro. to Health Info. Mgmt.	3
HIM 160	Health Care Coding Systems	3
HIM 170	Legal Aspects of Health Information Mgmt.	2
HIM 250	Alternative Site Health Information Mgmt.	3
HIM 260	Fund. of Human Diseases	5
HIM 262	Advanced Coding & Reimbursement	4
HIM 291	Independent Study: Coding Experience	1



## **Employment Opportunities Upon Graduation**

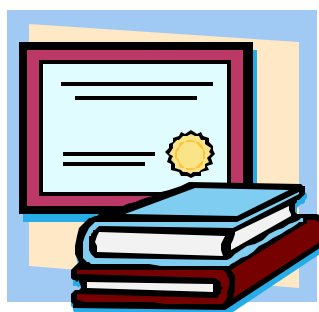
The demand for coders has never been greater- and this need is expected to continue for some years to come. Coding specialists are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. Hospitals or medical providers report coded data to insurance companies or the government, in the case of Medicare and Medicaid recipients, for reimbursement of their expenses. Researchers and public health officials also use coded medical data to monitor patterns and explore new interventions. Coding accuracy is thus highly important to healthcare organizations because of its impact on revenues and describing health outcomes.

Graduates may have positions such as:

- Health Data Analyst
- Insurance Claims Analyst
- Clinical Coding Specialist
- Coding Compliance Reviewer

## College of Business & Information Systems

### HEALTH CARE CODING CERTIFICATE



Contact Information:

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