MEDICAL CODING

CAREER GUIDE

Job Description

The Certified Coding Associate (CCA), Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) and Certified Coding Specialist (CCS-P) apply codes to classify medical data and ensure proper reimbursement for health care services. Some of the responsibilities of a CCA, CCS and/or CCS-P may include:

- Interpret health record documentation using knowledge of anatomy and physiology, clinical disease processes, pharmacology and medical terminology
- Assign classification codes to diagnoses and procedures
- Sequence classification codes in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

Credential Description

The Certified Coding Associate (CCA) certification demonstrates competency in the coding field even without much job experience. CCA holders distinguish themselves from non-credentialed coders, having the knowledge and skills to analyze and abstract information in health records and correctly assign classification codes. It is a good starting point for an individual entering a new career as a coder.

The CCS and CCS-P certifications represent mastery in clinical coding. The CCS is skilled in classifying medical data from hospital inpatient and outpatient records. CCS certification indicates expertise in the ICD coding system and the surgery section of the CPT coding system. The CCS-P is skilled in physician-based settings such as offices, group practices, multi-specialty clinics, or specialty centers. CCS-P certification indicates expertise in the CPT coding system and familiarity with the ICD and HCPCS Level II coding systems.

Approximate Salary in Nevada

Hourly Wage Range.....$20.19 - $31.25
Median Hourly Wage..... $21.29

Entry level credential, 1-2 years experience: Average $45.500

Source: "Nevada 2018 OES Wage Data"
www.nevadaworkforce.com and
US Salary Survey: HIM Professionals 2019

Program Description

The Medical Coding program is designed for the working student. The majority of students are part-time and carry 6 - 9 credit hours per semester and continue to work full-time jobs. The standard rule for study time is approximately 2 hours for every 1 credit hour. The program courses are generally offered in the late afternoon and evening with some weekends. The Medical Coding Program prepares students for the coding credentialing exams administered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

A high school diploma or equivalent educational background is required for the exam. More information can be found at www.ahima.org.

Approximate Costs

(Costs are subject to change)

Tuition:
44 credits x $109.75 per credit hr $4,829.00
Books $1,000.00
Lab Fees $50.00/lab
Urine Drug Screen $30.00
Physical Exam.....$50.00 - $75.00
Official Background Check $50.00
Immunizations.....$0 - $600.00
Medical Insurance .....$20.00 - $190.00/month
Applies only if you are presently uninsured.
AHIMA Student Membership..... $49.00
Credential Exam:
CCA (member)..... $199.00
CCS or CCS-P (member)..... $299.00
College Application Fee..... $20.00
One time, non-refundable fee charged to new students only.
Limited Entry Application Fee……...$20.00
Non-Resident Fee..... $3,843.00 per semester
This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.

Admission Requirements

The College of Southern Nevada's Medical Coding program is a Limited Entry program. An application for admission may be obtained online at: https://www.csn.edu/Limited-Entry-Admission2.

Students enrolled in the program will be required to show proof of health insurance and immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, and Diphtheria. Proof of a negative TB skin test and negative urine drug screen will also be required. In addition, a physical exam and an official background check must also be completed. All documentation is due prior to the first scheduled coding practice experience.

Application Deadline

Students applying for the Fall 2022 program must submit an application to the Limited Entry Office by June 1, 2022. (Note: Transcript evaluation process takes 8-10 weeks; you must initiate this process at least 10 weeks before the completion deadline.)

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