

Medical Coding DIPLOMA

Program Overview

Graduates of the Medical Coding Diploma program are proficient in coding diagnoses and procedures, abstracting medical data, meeting physician documentation needs, and other related duties. Coders work closely with billing personnel at healthcare facilities, and proficiency in billing and reimbursement procedures is included in the Medical Coding Diploma program. Courses taken to meet requirements for the Medical Coding Diploma also prepare a student to continue into the Health Information Technology AAS degree program.

Applicants should possess excellent communication skills, meticulous attention to detail, good spelling, finger dexterity, and extreme accuracy in their work. Candidates considering this field should be comfortable reading and analyzing data for long periods of time, abstracting information from patient health records, assisting billers and other reimbursement personnel, and using critical thinking skills.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Medical Coding Diploma program may work in a physician's office, surgery center, specialty clinic, hospital, insurance company, government agency, research foundation, long-term care facility, dental office, consulting firm, rehabilitation center or other health care facility. Medical coding may be done at home through use of a secure Internet connection. Working from one's home is generally for employees who have completed training in an office setting for a period of time.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Job Outlook for Medical Record and Health Information Technology careers is projected to increase 13.5% between 2016 and 2026, which is much faster than average (www.bls.gov).

Program Outcomes

1. Graduates will possess the knowledge and skills for employment as a medical coding specialist.
2. Graduates will be proficient in the use of computer software applications to assist in assigning diagnoses and procedures.
3. Graduates will possess a knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, patient confidentiality, ethical standards of coding, and electronic health record applications to perform in a healthcare environment.

*Information is subject to change.
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

Program Faculty

Kelly Dale kelly.dale@saintpaul.edu

Part-time/Full-time Options

This program can be completed by using a combination of online, day, evening, and Saturday courses. Part-time and full-time options are available.

Program Requirements

- Check off when completed
- All classes must be successfully completed with grade "C" or better.

Technical Requirements Cr

- MEDS 1420 Health Information Foundations.3
- MEDS 1470 Anatomy & Physiology/
Medical Office3
- MEDS 1480 Medical Terminology3
- MEDS 1560 Computerized Health Information3
- MEDS 1562 Billing and Reimbursement2
- MEDS 1570 Human Disease.3
- MEDS 2430 Pharmacology for the
Medical Office2
- MEDS 2434 Legal and Ethical Aspects of
Health Information2
- MEDS 2461 ICD-10-CM Coding.3
- MEDS 2462 ICD-10-PCS Coding4
- MEDS 2470 CPT-4 Coding3
- MEDS 2480 Advanced Coding.3
- MEDS 2594 Medical Coding Capstone3
- Subtotal. 37**

General Education/MnTC Requirements Cr

- Refer to the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Course List for each Goal Area
- Goal 1: Communications3
 - COMM 17XX – 3 cr
 - General Education Requirements 3**

Total Program Credits 40

Program Start Dates

Fall, Spring, Summer-limited course offerings

Course Sequence

The following sequence is recommended; however, this sequence is not required. Not all courses are offered each semester.

First Semester

- MEDS 1420 Health Information Foundations3
- MEDS 1470 Anatomy & Physiology/
Medical Office3
- MEDS 1480 Medical Terminology.3
- Goal 1: COMM 17XX3
- Total Semester Credits. 12**

Second Semester

- MEDS 1562 Billing and Reimbursement.2
- MEDS 1570 Human Disease3
- MEDS 2461 ICD-10-CM Coding3
- MEDS 2462 ICD-10-PCS Coding4
- MEDS 2470 CPT-4 Coding3
- Total Semester Credits. 15**

Third Semester

- MEDS 1560 Computerized Health Information3
- MEDS 2430 Pharmacology for the
Medical Office2
- MEDS 2434 Legal and Ethical Aspects of
Health Information2
- MEDS 2480 Advanced Coding3
- MEDS 2594 Medical Coding Capstone3
- Total Semester Credits. 13**

Total Program Credits 40

Minimum Program Entry Requirements Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

Reading: Score of 78+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722

Writing: Score of 78+ on Reading Comprehension or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922

Arithmetic: Score of 52+ or grade of "C" or better in MATH 0745

Keyboarding Skills: Minimum of 40 WPM with 3 errors or less or a grade of "C" or better in BTEC 1400.

Computer Skills: Basic computer skills such as word processing, spreadsheets, and Internet usage or a grade of "C" or better in BTEC 1418.

Assessment Results and Prerequisites: Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

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