CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN MEDICAL CODING

- Hospital HIM Department
- Physician groups
- Insurance companies
- Ambulatory care centers
- Long term care facilities
- State & federal health agencies
- Coding services vendors

Some career options may require an associate degree. For more career options, visit the FCC Career & Employment Center located in the Library, room LI-147.

To change to this major or to run a proposed degree/certificate evaluation in WebAdvisor you will need to use the following major code: MEDICAL CODING (F.4627.CA)

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5, Human Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(BIOL 24, or BIOL 20 and 22 may be substituted for BIOL 5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIT 15, Computer Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 1, Introduction to Health Information Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 4, Disease Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 5, Introduction to Coding</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 6, Coding and Reimbursement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 10, Medical Terminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 11, CPT Coding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 14, HIM Technology and Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HIT 15, Medical Coding Directed Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 2, Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prior to placement in a healthcare facility for HIT 15, a Background Check MUST be completed.

This document is available online. Go to: www.fresnocitycollege.edu/counseling and select “Major Requirements”. Refer to the FCC current catalog and addendum for the most up-to-date information.

The medical coding certificate program prepares students for a position as a coder in a hospital, physician office, clinic, long term care facility, and other healthcare settings. Coders review patient health information, extract data, and ensure appropriate codes are assigned for billing, internal and external reporting, research and regulatory compliance.

Admission Requirements:
Students must have a high school diploma, or the equivalent (such as the California High School Proficiency Examination or GED), or, if not a high school graduate, students are at least 18 years of age.

Application Procedures:
1. Submit an application to Fresno City College. Students are responsible for furnishing all documents, records, forms, and transcripts indicating minimum standards to the Admissions and Records Office.
2. Enroll in courses following the recommended sequence of courses for the medical coding certificate program.
   First semester courses are:
   - HIT 1 – Introduction to Health Information Management
   - HIT 10 – Medical Terminology
   - Biology 5 – Human Biology
   - CIT 15 – Computer Concepts

See a Health Sciences Counselor for further questions and review the Health Sciences web page: www.fresnocitycollege.edu / Courses & Programs / Health Sciences Division / Programs.

*HIT 15, Medical Coding Directed Practice

Students seeking a certificate of achievement must file an application for certificate within one year of potential graduation and/or completion.
NOTES:

1. A grade of C or higher is required in all courses in the certificate.

2. Estimated expenses for the Medical Coding Certificate Program are as follows:
   1. California State Resident registration/health fees for classes See current FCC schedule of classes
   2. Textbooks 1000.00
   3. Background Check/drug screen $ 80.00

   TOTAL $1800.00 (FCC registration and health fees are NOT included)

FACTS AND QUESTIONS

1. The functions of the medical coder include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. Ensure the quality of medical records by verifying their completeness, accuracy, and proper entry into computer systems.
   b. Code symptoms, diseases, operations, procedures and other therapies according to recognized classification systems.
   c. Maintain and utilize a variety of health information computer applications including electronic health records, data abstracting, chart deficiency, coding, and registries.
   d. Query physicians when code assignments are not straightforward or documentation in the record is inadequate, ambiguous, or unclear for coding purposes.
   e. Keep abreast of coding guidelines and reimbursement reporting requirements.
   f. Participate in special projects related to coding education and training.
   g. Provide data to the health care facility staff in patient care evaluation, utilization review, planning, and research activities.
   h. Supervise health information service activities such as: data analysis, coding, and data quality and reporting.

2. Where do coders work? Typically they work in a hospital Health Information Management Department, but many work for physician groups, insurance companies, ambulatory care centers, and health information services vendors.

3. Does successfully completing the program allow the student to apply to take the AHIMA national qualifying examination for certification as a Certified Coding Associate (CCA)? Yes!

4. What is the average salary for a medical coding professional? According to the AHIMA 2012 Salary Survey, the average salary for a CCA is $40,930. Salary will vary depending on the type, size, and geographic location of the healthcare organization. AHIMA reports professional coders with certification as a Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) have an average salary of $53,862 - http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/ahima/bok1_050798.pdf.

5. Where can I get further information?
   a. Attend a Health Arts Orientation Seminar scheduled in the Health Sciences Building.
   b. Director of HIT program, (559) 244-2641.
   d. Additional Career Information
      American Health Information Management Association
      233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Floor
      Chicago, IL 60601-5800
      (312) 233-1100
      www.ahima.org
   e. Contact the Health Science Division Office (559) 244-2604 to see a Health Science Counselor.

6. When are courses offered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses offered only in the fall semester:</th>
<th>Courses offered only in the spring semester:</th>
<th>Courses offered in fall and spring semesters:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIT 1</td>
<td>HIT 4</td>
<td>HIT 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 6</td>
<td>HIT 5</td>
<td>BIOL 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 14</td>
<td>HIT 11</td>
<td>CIT 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HIT 15</td>
<td>MA 2</td>
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The material in this publication has been prepared as carefully as possible. Fresno City College does not assume responsibility for inaccuracies or changes in the information contained herein after the date of publication.

FCC/MEDICAL CODING CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT (02/9/15) jg/se (559) 442-4600