Medical Coding Specialist
Diploma

Program Information
The Anoka Technical College Medical Coding Specialist diploma program is a 41-credit program that prepares students to assume an entry-level position as a medical coder in an acute care hospital, clinic or physician’s office health care setting.

Program Learning Outcomes
- Essential professional and technical knowledge.
- Effective written and oral communication skills.
- Skills in using resources and technology.
- Problem solving.
- Teamwork.
- Critical thinking skills.
- Eligible to work in any healthcare setting.
- Eligible to sit for the CCA exam.

Accreditation
The Medical Coding Specialist diploma can prepare students to sit for the national certification examination to become a Certified Coding Associate (CCA) or the Certified Procedural Coding-Apprentice (CPC-A) credentials.

Background Study
Minnesota Law requires that any person who provides services that involve direct contact with patients and residents at a health care facility licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health have a background study conducted by the state. An individual who is disqualified from having direct contact with patients as a result of the background study, and whose disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical placement in a Minnesota licensed health care facility. The college will withdraw any student who is disqualified by the Minnesota Department of Health. The student is responsible for completing the background study, and whose disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical placement in a Minnesota licensed health care facility. Therefore, coding specialists receive training in the anatomy and physiology of the human body and disease processes in order to understand the etiology, pathology, symptoms, signs, diagnostic studies, treatment modalities, and prognosis of diseases and procedures to be coded.

Course Prerequisites
Some courses may require appropriate test score or completion of basic math, basic English and/or reading courses with a “C” or better.

Wages/Outlook/Advancement
The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, in its Occupational Outlook Handbook, projects that employment for health information technicians is expected to grow much faster than the average. Wage information is available from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

2. Provide important information for the health care reimbursement process.
3. Assist in medical research and statistics.

Medical coding specialists analyze health record documentation in order to assign and/or ensure that valid codes are applied to medical diagnoses and procedures to facilitate reimbursement, analysis of patient outcomes and statistics. The coding specialist must have a thorough understanding of the content of the health record in order to be able to locate information to support or provide specificity for coding.

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Transfer Opportunities
To see how credits from this program may transfer into other Anoka Technical College programs or into a program at another college, visit:
- Minnesota Transfer
- Anoka Technical College transfer student

Industry Information
Graduates of the Medical Coding Specialist diploma program will:
1. Analyze medical record documentation in order to assign diagnostic and procedures codes.

Faculty Contact
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For information on how to apply, to schedule a tour, or for service during summer hours, contact Enrollment Services at 763-576-7710 or EnrollmentServices@anokatech.edu
Also see: Health Information Technology AAS and Health Unit Coordinator certificate