

# MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

**Program Number:** 31-530-2

Technical Diploma (1 year)

**Campus:** Online

This program is eligible for financial aid (<http://www.morainepark.edu/financial-aid/>)

Start your career in the health care industry—become a medical coding specialist in less than a year with an online diploma from Moraine Park Technical College.

## About the Program

Medical coding specialists review medical documentation provided by health care providers and translate it into an alphanumeric classification system. Using universally recognized coding systems, the coding specialist then assigns and sequences diagnostic and procedural codes, which are used by insurance companies to process health care claims, as well as for statistics and medical research.

Graduates from Moraine Park's online Medical Coding Specialist program are eligible to take the national Clinical Coding Associate (CCA) certification examination through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) (<http://www.ahima.org/>). They may also take AHIMA's national Clinical Coding Specialist (CCS) examination (two years of coding experience is recommended before taking the CCS examination).

## What You'll Learn

Graduates learn medical coding basics, including how to collect health data, use apps to collect and code data, apply coding and reimbursement systems and act professionally and ethically in the workplace.

The courses in this technical diploma transfer into the Health Information Technology (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/programs/health-information-technology/>) associate of applied science degree.

## Transfer Opportunities

Your academic journey can continue at a four-year college or university. Earn your associate degree at Moraine Park and then apply those credits toward a bachelor's degree. Starting at MPTC makes completing a bachelor's degree **affordable**, **accessible** and **convenient**. You can go anywhere as MPTC has transfer agreements with colleges and universities both in Wisconsin and throughout the country.

Visit the Transfer to a Four-Year College (<https://www.morainepark.edu/transfer-to-a-four-year-college/>) page for more information on credit transfer agreements between Moraine Park and four-year colleges, both public and private.

## Additional Information

**State Certification Disclosure:** Moraine Park's Medical Coding Specialist program prepares students to obtain the educational requirements necessary to sit for the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) examination offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). See Professional Licensure and Certification Disclosure (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/professional-licensure/>) for more details.

Certification Organization: American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) (<http://www.ahima.org/>)

Successful completion of 530-165 Intermediate Coding is the exit assessment graduation requirement for this program.

## Admission Process

Standard Admissions (<http://www.morainepark.edu/admissions/new-student/how-to-apply-for-admissions/>) steps details

## Credit for Prior Learning

Transform the skills and abilities developed through previous experience into college credit through MPTC's Credit for Prior Learning process.

- Transfer credit from other colleges/universities
- Earn college credit for your military training and experience
- Earn college credit via Advance Placement, CLEP, DANTES/DSST or MPTC Challenge Exams
- Earn college credit from previous/current work and life experiences

Visit MPTC's Credit for Prior Learning (<https://www.morainepark.edu/academics/credit-for-prior-learning/>) page for more information.

## Approximate Costs

**NOTE: The fees below are 2025-2026 fees. They will be updated when 2026-2027 fees are approved.**

### Tuition

#### Occupational

- \$152.85 per credit (resident)
- \$229.28 per credit (out-of-state resident)

#### Associate of Arts/Associate of Science

- \$192.20 per credit (resident)
- \$288.30 per credit (out-of-state resident)

Online students are not charged out-of-state fees.

### Student Fees

- \$5.00 minimum per course Material Fee
- \$13.76 per-credit Supplemental Fee for Undergraduate courses
- \$4.50 per term mandatory Student Accident Insurance Fee

Please refer to Tuition & Fee Information (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/admissions-registration/tuition-fee-information/>) for additional enrollment fee information.

## Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available for associate degree and technical diploma programs (those that are 2 semesters in length and typically with 28 credits or more). Processing can take 4-5 weeks after a student's completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa/>)) is received.

Several factors influence the total cost of your degree, including enrollment fees, the number of credits required, textbooks and

equipment. [Financial aid \(https://www.morainepark.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/\)](https://www.morainepark.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/) can assist with those costs.

## Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester 1</b>		
501-101	Medical Terminology	3
530-182	Human Diseases for the Health Professions	3
530-197	ICD Diagnosis Coding	3
806-189 or 806-177	Basic Anatomy or General Anatomy and Physiology	3-4
890-101	College 101	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14-15</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
501-107	Digital Literacy for Healthcare	2
530-120	Intro to Medical Reimbursement	2
530-157	Revenue Cycle Management	2
530-165	Intermediate Coding	3
530-180	Intro to Health Information	2
530-184	Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Coding	3
530-199	ICD Procedure Coding	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30-31</b>

## Program Outcomes

- Collect health data
- Model professional behavior and ethics
- Use electronic applications to support coding and data collection
- Apply coding and reimbursement systems

## Pathways

- Health Information Technology Associate Degree (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/programs/health-information-technology/>)
  - Medical Coding Specialist Technical Diploma (p. 1)

Earn a technical diploma and associate degree along this pathway. Start with some courses for entry-level employment, and continue with additional courses for higher wages and job advancement.

## Career Opportunities

- Hospital Outpatient Coder
- Physician Specialty Coder
- Charge Master Auditor
- Acute Care Coder
- Ambulatory Coder
- Insurance Claims Clerk
- Other positions with an emphasis on coding/data analysis

## Statewide Median Salary for Recent Graduates

\$46,796