

# 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/programs/health-information-technology-aas/>) associate of applied science degree.

## Transfer Opportunities

Earn credits at MPTC and transfer to a four-year college to earn your bachelor's degree.

Visit the Transfer to a Four-Year College (<https://www.morainepark.edu/academics/transfer-information/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 to pursue certification to be employed/practice in the state of Wisconsin. No determination has been made if the curriculum matches the educational requirements for preparation, examinations, or certification for other states. Visit the Accreditation (<http://www.morainepark.edu/about-mptc/accreditation/#accreditation>) page for more details about certification.

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

Earn college credit outside the classroom through Moraine Park's Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) opportunities. Credit opportunities are available for:

- Previous college coursework from prior institutions
- Military training and experience
- Passing of MPTC or national exams
- Skills or knowledge developed on the job or through other life experiences

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

## Approximate Costs

### Tuition

#### Occupational

- \$146.20 per credit (resident)
- \$219.30 per credit (out-of-state resident)

#### Associate of Arts/Associate of Science

- \$188.90 per credit (resident)
- \$283.35 per credit (out-of-state resident)

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

### Student Fees

- \$4.50 minimum per course Material Fee
- \$12.50 per-credit Supplemental Fee for Undergraduate courses
- \$10 minimum per credit Online Course Fee (Fee suspended for 2023-2024)
- \$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. Visit the Financial Aid (<https://www.morainepark.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/>) page to learn more.

## 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
530-159	Healthcare Revenue Management	3
530-162	Foundations of HIM	3
530-165	Intermediate Coding	3
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/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

\$42,407