What does a medical coding and billing professional do?

Medical coders translate medical records into standardized numeric codes used to bill patients and third-party payers, such as Medicare and insurance companies. All medical treatments, tests, and procedures must be coded, and the healthcare system requires competent medical coders. Medical coders can find job opportunities in hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices, medical labs, insurance companies, and a variety of other healthcare facilities.

Where do medical coders work?

Most coders work in comfortable, professional office environments and interact as valued team members alongside doctors and other healthcare professionals. A range of organizations hire coders, including large national companies and small, local physicians’ practices. Coders can also find a wide variety of career opportunities, including specialty disciplines and a limited number of at-home positions.

How much do medical coders earn?

Specific pay rates vary with employer and experience level, but the U.S. Department of Labor reports that the median annual wage of those in the medical records and health information field (including medical coding and billing professionals) is $30,610. According to this report, the middle 50% of medical coding and billing professionals earn between $24,290 and $39,490 annually.

Is the medical coding and billing field growing?

A nationwide shortage of medical coders has increased the demand on employers to fill these positions. The 2010-2011 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook, published by the U.S. Department of Labor, estimates:

- 35,100 new coding-related jobs before 2018
- 20% increase to the medical records and health information field
- Much higher rate of growth than the average for other occupations

A recent study conducted by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) reported that over half of coding employers had open coding positions in the previous year.
What does the program cover?

The Medical Coding and Billing career training program was developed in collaboration with industry associations, employers, and experts to help students gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the workplace. The curriculum is offered entirely online, providing students 24/7 access to program materials.

Students focus their study on:

- Medical language and documentation
- Coding procedures and guidelines
- Effective use of industry-standard coding manuals

The program also includes interactive learning tools, such as games, a student forum, chat rooms, and hundreds of exercises that simulate the professional coding experience.

What kind of support will be available to me as a student?

The Medical Coding and Billing training program includes access to several support teams dedicated to student success. The student support team has professional coding experience and can answer questions about the curriculum and the industry. The technical support team will help with any technical or computer issues students may encounter within the program. The graduate support team will help graduates make the most of available job search resources as they look for employment after graduation. Support teams are accessible during regular and extended business hours and are quick to respond to student questions and concerns.

Will the program prepare me for industry certifications?

Many coding employers require certification as a prerequisite to employment, and credentialed coders earn significantly more than non-credentialed coders according to a recent survey conducted by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). The survey also reported that approximately half of employers currently require certification and this number is increasing each year. Those who have earned industry credentials have an edge in the job market as they’ve proven a certain level of professional knowledge.

The Medical Coding and Billing program prepares students for the appropriate industry certifications, and upon passing the exam graduates will be able to add the credential to their resumes to boost their job search efforts.

What sets this program apart?

The Medical Coding and Billing program helps you gain the knowledge and skills you need to excel in the workplace after graduation.

- **Freedom and flexibility in training** – strengthen the time management skills valued by employers.
- **Expert-created, real-world curriculum** – prepare for industry certification exams respected and often required by employers.
- **Personal, on-going support** – access counselors and resources dedicated to helping you through the entire training process.