

Program Curriculum

1st Year	Lect	Lab	Credits	Second Year	Lect	Lab	Credits
Fall Semester 1: August - December				Fall Semester 2: August- December			
FYE 100 – First Year Experience	1	0	1				
HIM 100 – Intro to Health Information Management	3	0	3	HIM 215 – Advanced Medical Coding	4	0	4
				HIM 226 – CPT Coding	2	0	2
BIO 151- Anatomy and Physiology 1	3	2	4				
				Total:	6	0	6
Total:	7	2	8				
Spring Semester 1: January-April				Spring Semester 2: January—April			
HIM 115 – Clinical Abstracting	1	0	1	HIM 210—Healthcare Reimbursement Methodologies	3	0	3
BIO 152 – Anatomy and Physiology 2	3	2	4	HIM 227—CPT Coding 2	2	0	2
MCH 104 – Comprehensive Medical Terminology	3	0	3	HIM 250—HIM Coding Lab	0	3	1
Total:	7	2	8	Total:	5	3	6
Summer Semester 1: May-August							
HIM 130 – ICD Coding	4	0	4				
HIM 135 – Pharmacology for HIM	1	0	1				
BIO 240 - Pathophysiology	3	0	3				
Total:	8	0	8				
Total- Year 1:	22	4	24	Total – Year 2:	11	3	12
				Total Degree Program Credits:	33	7	36

Coding Specialist Certificate

About the Program

The Coding Specialist Certificate Program prepares individuals for employment as entry-level coding specialists in ambulatory health care settings such as physician group practices, billing companies, insurance companies, surgery centers and hospitals. Healthcare facilities need trained specialists to accurately determine the diagnosis and procedure coding assignment using ICD-10-CM/PCS and CPT coding systems. In many instances financial reimbursement is tied to these numeric codes.

All courses included in the program curriculum can be taken on-line. General and science courses are offered in on-campus, on-line, and hybrid formats. Technical course (HIM) sequence starts every Fall Semester. Basic science and non-technical courses may be taken prior to a student entering the program.

How to Get Started on Your Coding Specialist Career

You may enroll in the program if you are a graduate of an accredited high school or have evidence of high school equivalency by GED scores. In addition to meeting the requirements for admission to the college, students must meet the prerequisites for the Coding Specialist Certificate program.

- ◆ Complete the college application process. (Includes completing an application form and having high school/college transcripts sent to Admissions. Admission information can be found on our website: <https://www.cincinnati-state.edu/academics/admission>. Once the admission process has been completed make sure you schedule an appointment with the Program Chair:

Clarice Warner, Health and Public Safety Division 513-569-4278 or clarice.warner@cincinnati-state.edu.

Starting Salaries

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of HIM professionals is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2032. On top of strong job prospects, competitive salaries also await coding certificate graduates. According to the BLS, the 2022 national average annual wage for medical coders was \$51,090; the national average hourly rate was \$24.56/hr. Graduates who pursue hospital coding positions in the Greater Cincinnati area can expect a starting hourly rate in the range of \$18.00-21.00/hr. Note that salaries vary according to type of position and type of facility.

Estimated Costs

- Tuition:
 - Ohio: Approximately \$7,712 (taking exact courses listed in catalog)
 - Out-of-state: Approximately \$15,425 (taking exact courses listed in catalog)
- Transportation, parking fee \$5.00 per day/\$75.00 per semester for campus fee.
- Miscellaneous Fees: approximately \$1,500
- Books, Subscriptions, Supplies: approximately \$1,778

Financial Aid:

Students are advised to work closely with a Financial Aid advisor, and are cautioned to be aware of Financial Aid limits prior to enrolling in coursework not listed in the curriculum.

Program Advisors

Students not yet admitted to the college are assisted by the Admissions Office, please call 513-569-1544.

Clarice Warner, Program Chair, advises students interested in the Coding Specialist Certificate program. Please call Cindy at 513-569-4278 to schedule an appointment.

Credentials

There are several professional organizations that provide testing to become a certified coding professional. After completing the Cincinnati State Coding Specialist Certificate program, a student may elect to take an **entry-level coding certification exam** offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). Successful completion of the exam will result in the status of Certified Coding Associate (CCA). Other coding credentialing exams are offered through the American Association of Professional Coders.

More information about AHIMA's certification process can be found on the following website: www.ahima.org.

Professional organizations offering advanced certification status recommend coding education **and** experience in the field. The individual student should evaluate their knowledge and experience to determine if they are eligible to take the advanced certification examination.

Program Prerequisites Requirements

1. High school diploma or GED (college transcripts can also be submitted for transfer of applicable credit)
2. High school or college course in Biology and Chemistry (within 5 years of application date) with a grade of C or higher OR BIO 100 OR BIO 111 and CHE 100 or CHE 110 with a grade of C or higher.
3. Completion of IM 111 or experience in Microsoft Office applications.
4. Cumulative GPA of at least 2.75
5. Meet with program chair prior to registering.

- Check your college email at least weekly as it is the official mode of communication for the program and the college.

Can I receive credit for my work experience and previous college courses?

Each applicant will be individually evaluated for advanced standing credit based on his/her work experience and academic background. If you have previous work experience, ask the program chair for information about testing out of, or advanced standing credit for, selected courses.

Career Pathway

All of the courses in the Coding Specialist Certificate curriculum are also in the two-year associate degree program for Health Information Management.

Program Chair

Clarice Warner, MPH, RHIA, CCS-P, CPC, CHC

Has overall responsibility for the program and students enrolled in the programs technical (HIM) courses.

clarice.warner@cincinnati.edu

513-569-4278