Westchester Community College
State University of New York

Pathways to Health Information Technology

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Introduction:

Learn to record, integrate, and report patient data securely through classroom and practical experiences with specialized computer applications. The Health Information Technology A.A.S. prepares you to manage patient data in a diverse range of health care settings.

The program allows you to build credentials in the field. Certificates earned in Medical Billing and in Medical Coding may be applied toward the A.A.S. in Health Information Technology. The Medical Billing Certificate leads to credentialing as a Certified Professional Biller. The Medical Coding Certificate prepares you for certification exams. Each certificate builds your knowledge and skills and helps you advance in the field.

This document will show you how to navigate through the 3 stackable credentials:

1st Certification--Medical Billing Certificate Program

2nd Certification--Medical Coding Certificate Program

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Information Technology

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Medical Billing Certificate Program
1ˢᵗ Certification

Medical Billing job opportunities are expected to grow by 24%
in the Hudson Valley over the next 5 years*

The median salary for a certified Medical Billing professional is $45,236.**

Medical Billing is the process by which health care providers submit claims to
insurance providers (payers), government programs (Medicaid/Medicare),
and/or patients directly in order to receive reimbursement for services.
Besides invoicing and collecting payments, medical billers
are involved with handling denied claims and processing appeals.***

Certificate program requirements - Minimum Total Credits - 24

- ENG 101 - Writing and Research

- HCTAL 101 - Medical Terminology

- HIT 120 - Introduction to Health Information Management

- HIT 140 - Health Care Reimbursement

- HIT 150 - Advanced Health Information

- HIT 210 - Intro to ICD-10

- HIT 220 - CPT-4/HCPCS

- BTECH 230 - Integrated Office Applications

National Certifications:
Upon completion, students can sit for AAPC's (American Academy of Professional Coders) national exam
for Certified Professional Biller.

Career Advancement Opportunities:

Medical Billing is a stackable credential. Students can begin to work in the field and continue to work towards their next certificate Medical Coding. Medical Coding program incorporates everything from Medical Billing program and builds on it (see next page).

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Medical Coding Certificate Program
2nd Certification

The only AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association)
PCAP accredited coding program in Westchester, NY

Medical Billing and Coding job opportunities are expected to grow by 24% in the Hudson Valley over the next 5 years*

Median salary in the Hudson Valley is $57,002**

Medical Coding is the lifeblood of all successful practices and facilities. Certified medical coders must have a good understanding of anatomy and physiology, the disease process, and clinical procedures in order to apply the correct codes that make up health records, claims and the business side of medicine.***

Certificate Requirements - 37 Credits (includes credits earned in Medical Billing)

- HIT 110 – Health Sciences 1 – Overview of the human body.

- HIT 130 – Health Sciences 2 - Intro to basic principles of Pathophysiology and Pharmacology

- HIT 230 - Advanced ICD - 10

- HIT 250 - Professional Practice Experience 1: Coding (Completed using AHIMA's V-lab)

National Certifications:
Upon completion, students can sit for AHIMA's national exam for Certified Coding Associate exam or AAPC's Certified Professional Coder exam (along with AAPC's Certified Professional Biller exam)

Career Advancement Opportunities:

Medical Coding is a stackable credential. Students who complete this certification can continue onto Health Information Technology A.A.S. All credits earned in this program are applied to the next program (see next page).

Health Information Technology, A.A.S.
3rd Certification and Associate of Applied Science Degree

Health Information Technology job opportunities are expected to grow
by 24% in the Hudson Valley over the next 5 years*

Median Salary for HIT professionals is $59,392 ***

Job responsibilities include ensuring the quality of medical records by verifying the completeness, accuracy, and proper entry into EHR, using the EHR to assemble/analyze patient data for improving patient care and coding of diagnoses/procedures in patient records for reimbursement/research.*

AAS requirements minimum credits- 63 (includes credits earned in medical billing and coding)

- Humanities (3 credits): ENG 102 - Writing and Literature
- Mathematics (3 credits): MATH 117 - College Quantitative Reasoning
- Social Sciences (3 credits)
- The Arts, Foreign Language, or Other World Civilizations (3 credits)
- American History or Western Civilization (3 credits)
- HIT 260 - Health Information Technologies
- HIT 270 - Healthcare Statistics & Research
- HIT 280 - Health Leadership and Management
- HIT 290 - Professional Practice Experience 2: Internship (Completed at a Medical Facility)

National Certifications:
Upon completion, students can sit for AHIMA's national exam for Certified Coding Associate exam or AAPC's Certified Professional Coder exam (along with AAPC's Certified Professional Biller). Upon the accreditation of the program by AHIMA/CAHIIM, students can sit for AHIMA's national exam for Registered Health Information Technician.

Career Advancement Opportunities:

Health Information technologists with a college degree earn higher salaries, have more job opportunities and are eligible for supervisory positions. There are bachelor's and master's programs within the field-refer to AHIMA's career map for career paths: https://my.ahima.org/careermap

* NYS Department of Labor, Hudson Valley to 2026
**AHIMA website
***ZipRecruiter, Chappaqua NY