

Medical Coding & Billing



General Information

Northwest Florida State College offers a 26-credit program that leads to an Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) in Medical Coding & Billing and may be completed in three to six semesters. The NWFSC Medical Coding & Billing program prepares students for employment in all healthcare environments including hospitals, medical offices, healthcare facilities, home healthcare agencies, and insurance companies. The curriculum includes content in medical terminology, health information management, medical billing, basic coding for medical records, and an introduction to healthcare. Graduates of the program may take the coding specialist exam given by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to become a Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) or through the American Academy of Professional Coders to become a Certified Professional Coder (CPC). A number of specialty certifications are also available on the national level through organizations such as the American Academy of Otolaryngology and others.

Accreditation

Northwest Florida State College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and associate degrees, certificates and diplomas. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northwest Florida State College.

What is a Medical Coding & Billing?

The Medical Coding and Billing professional is an integral member of the healthcare team who assigns a code to each diagnosis and procedure documented in a patient's medical record. Responsibilities in this career field include analyzing medical records and assigning codes to diagnoses and procedures, organizing records used for billing and insurance claims, and communicating effectively with other healthcare personnel.

What is the job outlook and salary range?

The need for those competent in Medical Coding and Billing is increasing with the growth of healthcare in the USA. Careers in this field are projected to be among the fastest growing occupations through the year 2016 (U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics). The starting annual salary in this field is approximately \$28,700 (AHIMA) (FL Agency for Workforce Innovation Labor Market Statistics).

[Over for more info>](#)



NORTHWEST FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE

www.nwfsc.edu

Call (850) 729-6444

NWFSC Division of Allied Health and BSN

An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution

Plan now to begin Medical Coding

New students may be
admitted each Fall.

Classes available
Fall, Spring, and
Summer semesters

Complete admission
forms now.

See the NWFSC website
for an application
for admission

www.nwfsc.edu

Schedule your free academic
advising appointment now.

Call (850) 729-6922

To begin the program you must:

- ❖ Have a high school diploma or GED high school equivalent diploma. If you have not yet completed a diploma, you may apply for admission, but must complete a diploma before you are admitted as a degree-seeking student.
- ❖ Submit NWFSC admission and residency forms to NWFSC.
- ❖ Request official transcripts from high school, GED or any postsecondary institution attended.
- ❖ Meet with an academic advisor to plan a program of study before enrolling in classes.



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How are students admitted to the Medical Coding & Billing program?

To begin this program submit completed NWF State College admissions and residency forms, which are available on the college website, at all NWF State College locations, and at area high schools. Applicants for employment in this field must be high school graduates; therefore, students enrolling in this program must possess a high school diploma or GED. Official transcripts, as applicable, must be requested from all previously attended colleges in addition to the high school transcript or GED.

What is the cost of the program?

Northwest Florida State College fees are among the lowest in Florida of any state college or university. A special in-state fee is available at NWF State College for Alabama residents. Other expenses, such as textbooks, are additional. See www.nwfsc.edu for current fees.

Is financial aid available?

The mission of NWF State College is to serve everyone who can benefit from a college education. NWF State College offers an extensive financial aid program. Local scholarships are available through the NWFSC Foundation. The NWF State College Financial Aid staff are available to personally advise students on the steps necessary to apply for the various forms of financial aid.

When are the classes taught? Can I work while enrolled in this program?

Coursework for this program of study is offered in a variety of formats including evening, Saturday and distance learning courses to accommodate working students. Classes are generally offered at the NWF State College Niceville campus and enrollment is on a space available basis. Most courses are not taught in every semester. Therefore, it is recommended that students the plan of study below. Some courses are more time consuming than others. The average course requires about three hours of study for each class hour.

I've taken courses at another college, will any count toward this program?

Students should have transcripts of work completed at any other college sent to the NWF State College Registrar's Office. Appropriate college staff will evaluate any previous courses you have taken, and you will be notified if any may be applied to the Medical Coding and Billing program of study.

Plan of Study

3 Semester Plan

FALL	CR	SPRING	CR	SUMMER	CR
HSC 1531 Medical Terminology	3	*HIM 1282 Basic Coding for Medical Records	4	*HIM 2283C Advanced Coding for Medical Records	5
BSC 1080 Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology	3	HIM 1000 Intro to Hlth Information Management	3	*HIM 1273C Medical Billing	2
HIM 1432 Pathophysiology	4	*HIM 1442 Pharmacology for HIM Professionals	2	CGS 1030 Computer Basics <i>Suggested/Non-required Elective</i>	3

6 Semester Plan

1 ST FALL	CR	1 ST SPRING	CR	1 ST SUMMER	CR
HSC 1531 Medical Technology	3	HIM 1432 Pathophysiology	4	CGS 1030 Computer Basics <i>Suggested/Non-required Elective</i>	3
BSC 1080 Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology	3	HIM 1000 Intro to Hlth Information Management	3		
2 ND FALL	CR	2 ND SPRING	CR	2 ND SUMMER	CR
*HIM 1282 Basic Coding for Medical Records	4	*HIM 1442 Pharmacology for HIM Professionals	2	*HIM 2283C Adv. Coding for Medical Records	5
				*HIM 1273C Medical Billing	2

*These courses must be taken in sequence. Some courses are **not** offered each semester, therefore in order to progress through the program, students should follow a Plan of Study or wait until the following year to progress through the program.