

MEDICAL CODER

Technical Diploma Program Code: 31-530-3 Total Credits: 31-32

The Medical Coder program at Mid-State prepares students for entry-level work as medical coders in health care settings such as hospitals, physician offices, long-term care facilities, and more. Medical coders review medical documentation and assign diagnosis and procedure codes for the purposes of billing, quality improvement, statistical reporting, and medical research. In this program, you'll be introduced to reimbursement principles and build proficiency in assigning codes across all settings. After program completion, graduates may qualify to take the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) credentialing exam through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

To learn more about this program, visit mstc.edu/programs.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715-422-5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit mstc.edu/advising.

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- Submit a Mid-State application at mstc.edu/apply.
- Send official transcripts to:
Mid-State Technical College
Student Services
500 32nd Street North
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at mstc.edu/financial-aid.
- Set up student MyCampus account at mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance.
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at mstc.edu/advising.

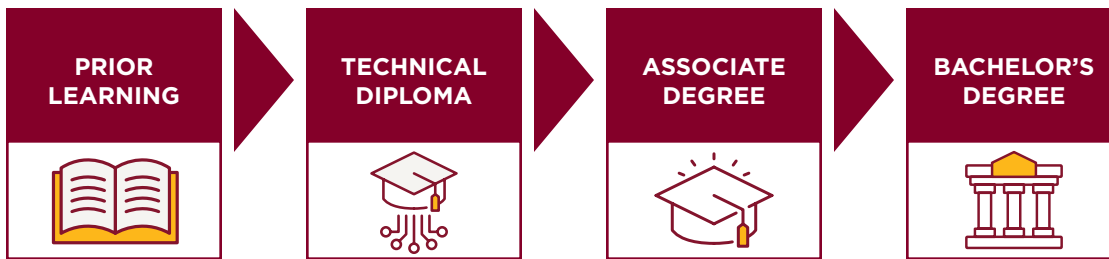
mstc.edu • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



Adams Campus • Marshfield Campus • Stevens Point Downtown Campus • Wisconsin Rapids Campus • Virtual Campus • AMETA® Center

Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President - Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715-422-5325 • AAEO@mstc.edu. 3/2026-AC

CAREER PATHWAY



Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.

Begin at any point.

Prior Learning

Credit for Prior Learning

- Certifications and Licenses
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at mstc.edu/cpl.

High School Credit

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at mstc.edu/dc.

Technical Diploma

- Medical Coder (31 Credits)
Start Your Career: Financial Services Specialist, Medical Biller, Medical Claims Reviewer, Medical Coder/Specialist, Medical Records Technician

Associate Degree

- Health Information Management (62-63 Credits)
Start Your Career: Health Information Specialist/Technician, Health Information Supervisor, Master Patient Index Specialist, Medical Coding Auditor/Reviewer, Revenue Cycle Coordinator

Bachelor's Degree

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit mstc.edu/transfer.

Other Options

Related Programs: Dental Assistant, Health & Wellness Promotion, Medical Assistant, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Sterile Processing Technician, Surgical Technology

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Medical Coder graduate, to be able to:

- Apply clinical documentation and diagnostic results to ensure accurate diagnostic and procedural coding.
- Validate completeness and accuracy of health data for coding, billing, and statistical purposes.
- Evaluate components of revenue cycle management and clinical documentation improvement.

TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Faculty will let students know when and how the Technical Skills Attainment (TSA) is being assessed in the program.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A list of specific physical, emotional, and mental tasks needed to function as a medical coder is available at mstc.edu/programs/medical-coder. Contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator in the Student Services & Information Center to receive assistance.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION AND COMPLETION

In order to maintain a passing status and progress in the program, students must:

- Repeat courses not completed with a grade of “C” or better prior to progressing in program courses with co- or prerequisites.
- Receive a grade of “C” or better in all courses required for graduation.

A student may repeat the same course in the HIM (or medical coder) program. If the course is failed a second time, the student is required to meet with the program advisor prior to enrolling in the course again. If a HIM (or medical coder) student fails four separate program courses, the student will be withdrawn from the program. Failures will include failing the same course or failing different courses. A withdrawal grade of “W” counts as one attempt for the course.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit mstc.edu/studenthandbook to view Mid-State’s student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State’s Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum placement scores.

College Reading and Writing 1 10831104

3 credits

Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

Pre-Algebra

10834109

3 credits

Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM_1)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM_2)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS_1)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS_2)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a “C” or better

Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.

SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

Medical Coder • 31-32 Total Credits

Term 13-14 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10103106	Microsoft Office-Introduction	Yes	3
	10501101	Medical Terminology	Yes	3
	10530123	Introduction to Digital Information in Healthcare	No	3
	10806189 or 10806177	Basic Anatomy or General Anatomy & Physiology	No or Yes	3 or 4
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 9 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10530144	CPT Coding for HIM	No	3
	10530117	Human Disease for the Health Professions	No	3
	10530197	ICD Diagnosis Coding	No	3

Term 9 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10530146	Private and Government Reimbursement	No	3
	10530147	HIM Advanced Coding	No	3
	10530115	Inpatient Procedure Coding	No	3

Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit mstc.edu/cpl or contact your academic advisor for details.
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
- This program can be completed entirely online.
- Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to mstc.edu/schedule.
- Get the latest updates online at mstc.edu.

SAMPLE PART-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

Medical Coder • 31-32 Total Credits

Term 10-11 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10501101	Medical Terminology	Yes	3
	10530123	Introduction to Digital Information in Healthcare	No	3
	10806189 or 10806177	Basic Anatomy or General Anatomy & Physiology	No or Yes	3 or 4
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10103106	Microsoft Office-Introduction	Yes	3
	10530117	Human Disease for the Health Professions	No	3

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10530144	CPT Coding for HIM	No	3
	10530197	ICD Diagnosis Coding	No	3

Term 9 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10530146	Private and Government Reimbursement	No	3
	10530147	HIM Advanced Coding	No	3
	10530115	Inpatient Procedure Coding	No	3

Basic Anatomy

10806189

3 credits

Examines concepts of anatomy and physiology as they relate to health careers. Learners correlate anatomical and physiological terminology to all body systems.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMM_1 or MMS_1 or Accuplacer QAS 246 or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 249 or ACT Math 19 or ACT Reading score of 15

CPT Coding for HIM

10530144

3 credits

Prepares learners to assign current procedural terminology (CPT) codes supported by medical documentation with entry-level proficiency. Students are familiar with and use standard coding references. Emphasizes accuracy, CPT instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning CPT codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation. Also covers application of modifiers to services and relationship to financial impact.

Prerequisites: Medical Terminology 10501101, Basic Anatomy 10806189, and Introduction to Digital Information in Healthcare 10530123; Corequisite: Human Disease for the Health Professions 10530117

General Anatomy & Physiology

10806177

4 credits

Examines basic concepts of human anatomy and physiology as they relate to health sciences. Using a body systems approach, the course emphasizes the interrelationships between structure and function at the gross and microscopic levels of organization of the entire human body. It is intended to prepare health care professionals who need to apply basic concepts of whole-body anatomy and physiology to informed decision making and professional communication with colleagues and patients.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMS_1 and MMM_1 or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 262 and QAS of 246 or ACT Math score of 19 and Reading score of 19 or College Math 10804107 or Intermediate Algebra with Applications 10804118 with a "C" or better; or General Chemistry 10806134, or General Biology 10806114, or Human Body in Health & Disease 31509302

GPS for Student Success

10890102

1 credit

Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes.

This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

HIM Advanced Coding

10530147

3 credits

Builds on basic coding knowledge and skills through the coding of clinical case studies and actual medical records. Students access, review, and code electronic medical records from the virtual lab software; perform data quality reviews to validate code assignment and compliance with reporting requirements; develop appropriate physician queries; and assign diagnosis related groups (DRGs) and ambulatory payment classifications (APCs) with entry-level proficiency using computerized encoding and grouping software.

Prerequisites: ICD Diagnosis Coding 10530197 and CPT Coding 10530144; Corequisites: Private and Government Reimbursement 10530146 and Inpatient Procedure Coding 10530115

Human Disease for the Health Professions

10530117

3 credits

Focuses on the common diseases of each body system as encountered in all types of healthcare settings by health information professionals. Emphasizes understanding the etiology (causes), signs and symptoms, diagnostic tests, and treatment (including pharmacologic) of each disease.

Prerequisites: Medical Terminology 10501101 and Basic Anatomy 10806189

ICD Diagnosis Coding

10530197

3 credits

Prepares students to assign ICD diagnosis codes supported by medical documentation with entry-level proficiency. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD diagnosis codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation.

Prerequisites: Medical Terminology 10501101, Basic Anatomy 10806189, and Introduction to Digital Information in Healthcare 10530123; Corequisite: Human Disease for the Health Professions 10530117

Inpatient Procedure Coding

10530115

3 credits

Prepares students to assign ICD procedure codes supported by medical documentation with entry-level proficiency. Students apply instructional notations, conventions, rules, and official coding guidelines when assigning ICD procedure codes to case studies and actual medical record documentation.

Prerequisite: ICD Diagnosis Coding 10530197; Corequisites: Private and Government Reimbursement 10530146 and HIM Advanced Coding 10530147

Introduction to Digital Information in Healthcare

10530123

3 credits

This introductory course examines the field of Health Information Management including the hardware and software systems used, common industry terminology, the security and ethical responsibilities of professionals in the field, and the current trends in the industry. Students will focus on accuracy and integrity of health data and confidentiality in this course.

Corequisite: 10501101 Medical Terminology

Medical Terminology

10501101

3 credits

Focuses on the component parts of medical terms: prefixes, suffixes, and word roots. Learners practice formation, analysis, and reconstruction of terms. Emphasizes spelling, definition, and pronunciation. Introduces operative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and symptomatic terminology of all body systems as well as systemic and surgical terminology.

Microsoft Office-Introduction

10103106

3 credits

Develops introductory skills in the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Outlook) while reinforcing the students' knowledge of computer concepts, Windows Explorer, and web usage. This course prepares students for the Associate level MOS Certification exams for Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Students should possess basic keyboarding, mouse, and Windows 11 skills. Students may develop these skills in the Academic Learning Center while concurrently enrolled in this course.

Private and Government Reimbursement

10530146

3 credits

Introduces students to the vocabulary of private healthcare and government reimbursement. Students will identify and compare the varieties of private and government healthcare insurance including the advantages and disadvantages of each for the provider and for the policyholder. HIPAA guidelines are utilized throughout.

Prerequisites: ICD Diagnosis Coding 10530197 and CPT Coding 10530144; Corequisites: Inpatient Procedure Coding 10530115; HIM Advanced Coding 10530147