



# COLLEGE OF HEALTH & SCIENCES

Health Care Coding (HCC)

[Program Overview](#)

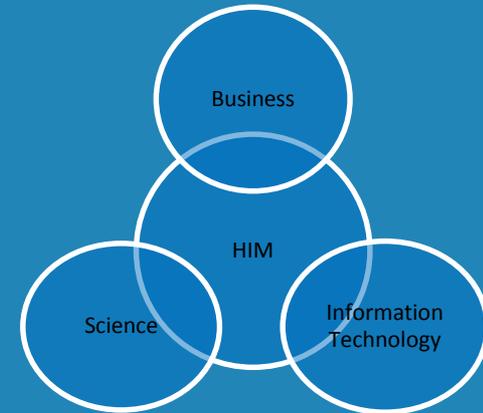
## Why Health Care Coding?

- Growing career opportunities
  - Individuals with medical coding skills are in demand
  - ICD-10 implementation
- Able to use knowledge and skills to contribute to the viability of a healthcare organization
  - By accurately assigning medical codes for billing and reimbursement of services
  - Serving as a link between clinicians and administrators in the financial, reimbursement and billing process.
- Opportunity to grow within the field. For instance, coding has evolved and will continue to evolve into non-traditional fields, such as research.
  - Opportunity for higher-level credentials, with experience.

# What Responsibilities / Tasks do Jobs in this Field Involve? (Job Duties):

## The Field of Health Information Management (HIM)

Health Information Management is the field by which health information technicians and health care coders reside. The field combines the concepts of business, science, and information technology. The field or the industry is referred to as health information management. Within the field, there are many areas of specialization, such as health care coding.



## Medical Coders

Coders are responsible for reviewing medical documentation to determine appropriate codes for diagnosis, procedures and services. These codes are then applied during the medical billing process to determine reimbursement and claim amounts.

- Review patient information for preexisting conditions, such as diabetes
- Assign appropriate diagnoses and procedure codes for patient care, population health statistics, and billing purposes
- Work as a liaison between the health clinician and billing offices

## What Job Titles will I Commonly See Advertised in this Field? (Potential Job Titles):

- Inpatient Coder
- Outpatient or Emergency Room (ER) Coder
- Physician's Office Coder-Biller
- Surgical Coder
- Coding Supervisor/Manager
- Revenue Cycle Specialist

## Important Qualities and Interests:

- Interest in the non-clinical medical field
- Have an attention for detail
- Daily challenge of searching for relevant medical information
- Interested in science and reviewing medical documentation
- Can communicate effectively with physicians and clinical staff
- Can work independently
- Self-motivated

# What are My Prospects for Finding a Job in This Field? (Job Outlook):

## Medical Coders:

2014 Employment was 188,600 jobs

Mean Hourly Wage - \$17.26

Mean Annual Wage - \$35,900

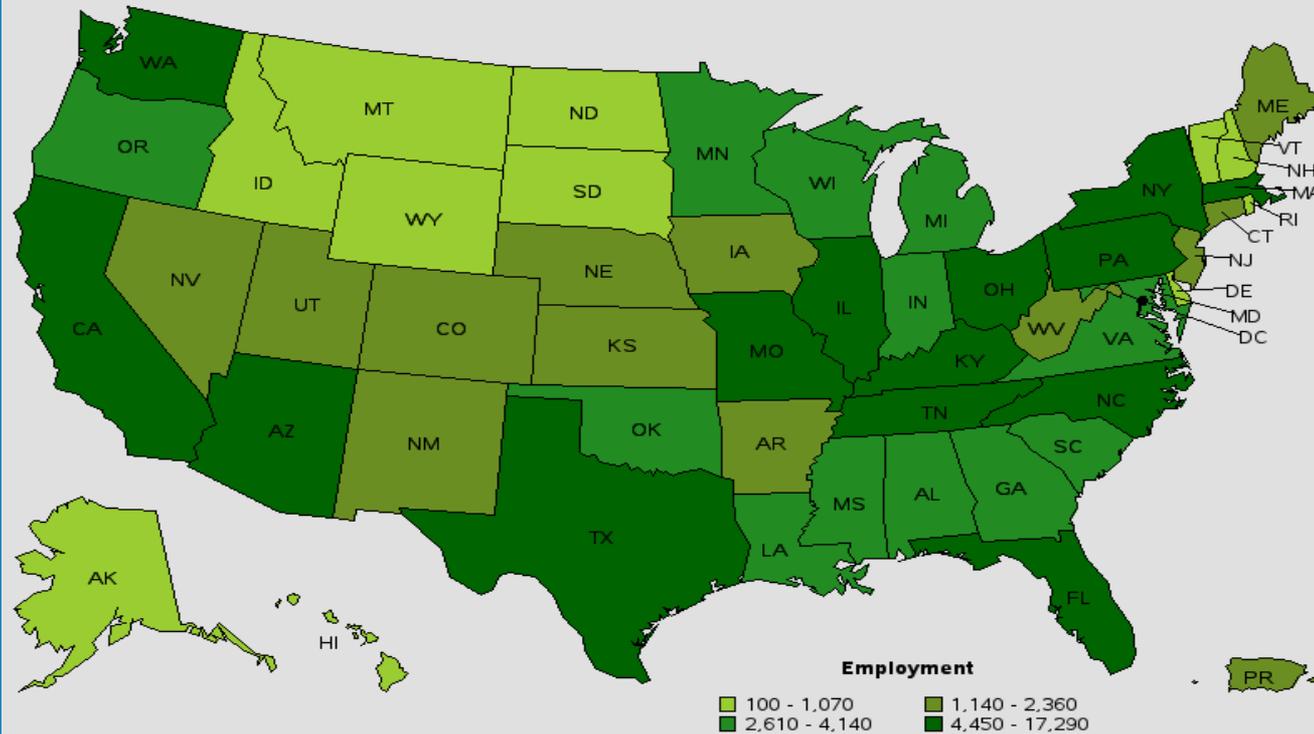
AHIMA-Credentialed Coder - Average Wage in 2012 was \$49,222 with projected 8% increase (\$57,411 in 2014)

(AHIMA)

Employment Growth - 15% (Much faster than average at 7%)

# Where are The Jobs in This Field Located? (By State) (BLS)

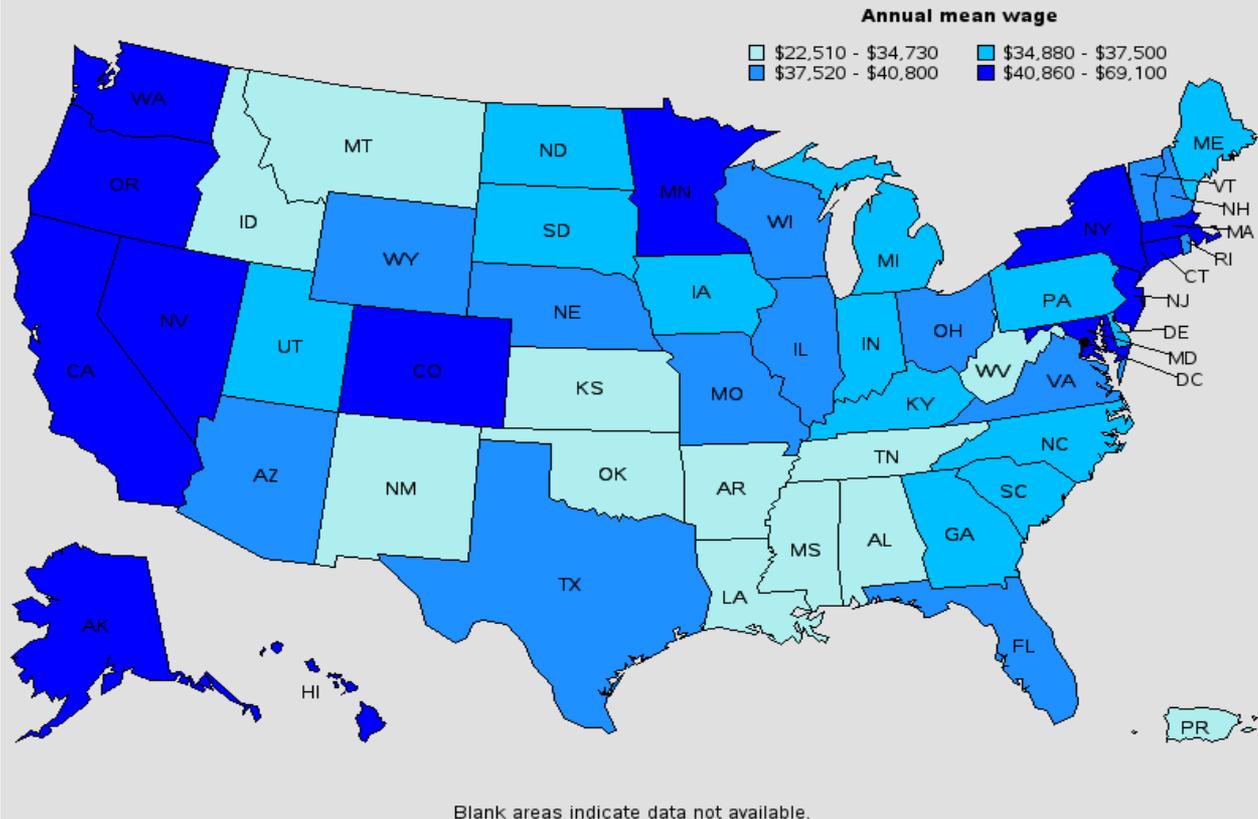
⋮ Employment of medical records and health information technicians, by state, May 2014



Blank areas indicate data not available.

# What is the Average Salary for this Occupation by State? (BLS)

Annual mean wage of medical records and health information technicians, by state, May 2014



## What is the Education Level Typically Found Among Those with Jobs in This Field?:

- High school diploma or equivalent – 48%
- Some college, no degree – 21%
- Associate degree – 20%

(O\*Net)

## Does this Diploma Program Ladder into NAU Associate Degrees?:

- AAS HIT (refer to status sheet)...

The 2015/16 status sheet is posted on MYNAU.

# What Certifications Link to This Program / Occupation?:

Certified Coding Associate (CCA)

<http://www.ahima.org/certification/CCA>

## What are Advancement Opportunities in this Field (Beyond Entry-Level Positions & Requiring a Combination of Experience in the Field a Degree)?:

- Coding Supervisor or Manager
- Job Duties: Coding managers primarily deal with establishing policies and implementing changes, coordinating with other personnel managers and with physicians, reviewing departmental procedures, and evaluating the effectiveness of personnel. In facilities where patient data may be used in studies or research, coding managers may be responsible for insuring that data is available to authorized personnel. Common duties of a coding manager's job also include coordinating with other hospital departments and adhering to current coding practices. (BLS)

# REAL STORIES AND CAREER RESOURCES



HCC Program  
Resources

Health information and coding students receive academic preparations that prepare them for a large number of health information careers following graduation. Members of AHIMA hold positions in over 40 job categories, and more than 200 job titles. Hear from a student and a couple of recent graduates who are starting out in their career. (<http://www.ahima.org/careers/healthinfo>)



The Inpatient Coder



- [\*\*HIM 101\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CAREER MAP\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CAREER PREP TOOLS\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CAREER PLANNING\*\*](#)
- [\*\*MENTORSHIPS\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CAREER ASSIST JOB BANK\*\*](#)
- [\*\*WHY CERTIFY\*\*](#)