CLINICAL CODING ASSOCIATE: CS

Certificate of Specialization | 24 credit hours minimum

Area of Interest: Health Professions

Program Website (https://stlcc.edu/pathways/health/clinical-coding/)

Academic Advising (https://stlcc.edu/admissions/advising/)

Program Description:

Clinical Coding Associate (CCA), Certificate of Specialization, teaches beginning coding competencies across all settings, including hospital and physician practices. Becoming a CCA certified coder positions graduates with the skills and knowledge to successfully apply codes to diagnoses and procedures. This program is strengthened by a solid foundation of the study of human anatomy, medical terminology and language, human diseases, pharmacology, and computer concepts.

Locations. This program is offered at Forest Park by taking a mixture of face-to-face and online courses.

Related Programs. The Health Information Management Department offers an associate and a certificate in the following areas:

> **Clinical Coding, Certificate of Proficiency (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/programs/clinical-coding-certificate-proficiency/)**
>
> **Health Information Management, Associate in Applied Science (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/programs/health-information-management-aas/)**

Cost of Attendance. For more information on cost of attendance visit **MoSCORES (https://scorecard.mo.gov/Search/)**.

Program Career and Salary Information. Pursuant to Missouri HB 1606 (2018), information regarding the number of credit hours, program length, employment rate, wage data, and graduates employed in careers related to their program of study at St. Louis Community College can be found at the following URL: **https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/ (https://www.google.com/url/?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=1555536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_i2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ)**. Search using School / Program "St. Louis Community College" and choose the degree or credential type of interest.

The following limitations to the data apply: Information provided is based on the most recent cohorts available. Typically, most recent cohorts for wage and completion data are six years prior to the current academic year. Time to complete a program of study varies depending on the number of credit hours students earn per semester.

Interested in this program? Start the enrollment process by visiting the **Apply to STLCC (https://www.stlcc.edu/admissions/apply-to-stlcc/)** page.

At the completion of the program, students are expected to:

1. apply biomedical knowledge to the process of code assignment using the basic principles and conventions of clinical classification systems to analyze clinical data for the purposes of coding and reimbursement.
2. validate assignment of diagnostic and procedure codes in accordance with official guidelines, regulatory requirements, and clinical documentation improvement processes.
3. resolve coding challenges individually and collectively in a changing healthcare environment.
4. examine patient health information as it relates to privacy and security using the federal law Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
5. explain the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Code of Ethics and Standards of Ethical Coding.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Program Requirements		
BIO 215	Human Body Systems	5
HIM 101	Medical Terminology and Language	3
HIM 102	Electronic Health Management	2
HIM 103	Human Diseases and Pharmacology	3
HIM 104	Health Information and Delivery Systems	3
HIM 106	International Classification of Diseases Coding I	3
HIM 107	Current Procedural Terminology Coding I	3
HIM 210	Professional Practice Experience	2
Total Credit Hours		**24**

Academic Plan

PLEASE NOTE: If you originally enrolled at STLCC prior to Fall 2025, you may need to view an **archived catalog (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/archived-catalogs/)** for your correct program requirements. Please speak with an advisor or the program coordinator for more information.

Code	Title	Hours	Prerequisites	Milestones/Notes
First Year				
Fall				
BIO 215	Human Body Systems	5	Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course
HIM 101	Medical Terminology and Language	3	Reading Proficiency	
HIM 102	Electronic Health Management	2	Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course
HIM 103	Human Diseases and Pharmacology	3	Concurrent or prior enrollment in BIO 215 and HIM 102 with minimum grades of "C", and Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course
	Credit Hours	**13**		

Spring				
HIM 106	International Classification of Diseases Coding I	3	BIO 215, HIM 101, HIM 102, and HIM 103 with minimum grades of "C"; and Reading Proficiency	Critical Course
HIM 107	Current Procedural Terminology Coding I	3	BIO 215, HIM 101, HIM 102, and HIM 103 with minimum grades of "C"; and Reading Proficiency	Critical Course
HIM 104	Health Information and Delivery Systems	3	BIO 215, HIM 101, HIM 102, and HIM 103 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
HIM 210	Professional Practice Experience	2	Department approval and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	**11**		
	Total Credit Hours	**24**		

Critical Courses: Critical courses are most important to a student's declared major and most strongly predict later success in the major. A critical course requires a minimal grade to progress to higher-level courses.

Gateway Courses: Gateway courses are courses in many career pathways that must be completed before progression in higher-level courses. These may be the same as critical and/or exploratory courses.

Exploratory Courses: Exploratory courses are first-semester courses that introduce the program and career field.

*Click on the hyperlinked course number to view additional information about the course.

**Students completing a course that has been assigned a MOTR number may transfer that course to any public institution in Missouri. Those who complete CORE 42 requirements will have that verification on their transcript.

*** It is your responsibility to verify that the courses listed above will transfer to the four-year institution of your choice. Maximize your transfer credits/classes by meeting with an academic advisor.