HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
CLINICAL DATA CODING
Career Studies Certificate   **MEC**

Purpose: The curriculum is designed for persons who seek entry-level employment as clinical data coding specialists in health care organizations by providing them with knowledge in anatomy and medical terminology, skill development in ICD-9-CM and CPT coding classification systems, database management, and clinical data abstracting processes, prospective payment systems and reimbursement strategies. Clinical data coding specialists are in demand across the spectrum of health care organizations including hospitals, physician offices, insurance companies, managed care organizations, contracting groups, and accounting firms. The curriculum includes one coordinated practice course. Students are expected to complete the courses in the sequence outlined below.

Admission Requirements: Students must be admitted to NVCC at Annandale campus; have a high school diploma or GED including one unit of high school level science (preferably biology or chemistry), have obtained a score of 81 or better on the reading section of the English placement test, and have obtained a score of 85 or better on the writing section of the English placement test. Evidence of good physical and mental health must be demonstrated by submission of a physical exam form and CPR certification is required. Both must be completed before the start of clinical experience.

Special Certification: Graduates of the certificate program are eligible to take one of two national certifying examinations administered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to become a Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) or Certified Coding Specialist-Physician Office setting (CCS-P).

Career Opportunities: Clinical data coding specialists are in demand across the spectrum of health care organizations including hospitals, physician offices, insurance companies, managed care organizations, billing organizations, contracting groups and accounting firms**.**

One Year			Credits
1st Semester			
ENG	111	College Composition I	3
HIT	111	Medical Terminology I	3
HIT	250	Health Data Classification Systems I (ICD-9-CM)	4
HIT	255	Health Data Classification Systems II (CPT)	2
NAS	150	Human Biology	<u>4</u>
		Total	**16**
2nd Semester			
HIT	110	Intro. to Human Pathology	3
HIT	251	Clinical Practice I	3
HIT	254	Advanced Coding and Reimbursement	3
HIT	260	Pharmacology for HIT	<u>2</u>
		Total	**11**

Total credits for the Clinical Data Coding Career Studies Certificate = 27.

All first-time students must take a one-credit Student Development (SDV) course prior to enrolling in their 16th credit at NVCC.