

Workforce Development & Continuing Education

The University of Akron

**Medical Coding Class**

**Common Questions and Answers**

December 17, 2008

1. Will I be employable as a Medical Coder just by taking the Medical Coding class?

The intent of the class is to give you a solid base in the fundamentals of physician and outpatient medical coding. This is the first step to take before considering taking a certification test. Today, most employers are looking for certified coders.

2. How do I know which certification test to take?

Certification in coding is available from several organizations. A recommendation would be to select a certification that is recognized by most employers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies that the AAPC's CPC certification for physician and outpatient coding credentials are recognized by employers, payers, and government agencies. AHIMA's CCS certification is also recognized for inpatient coding. For more information see The Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition:  
[www.stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm](http://www.stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm)

3. How do I find information on becoming a certified coder and what are the requirements?

As stated above there are a number of organizations that offer certifications. Two commonly recognized certifications are the CPC (Certified Professional Coder) by the AAPC see [www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com) and the CCS-P (Certified Coding Specialist-physician-based) by AHIMA see [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

4. What will Medical Coders make in area?

Salaries do vary. The certification organizations do provide general information. You can also check websites such as [www.salarywizard.net](http://www.salarywizard.net) to see the average of what a medical coder is making in this area.