



## Coding Specialist, Certificate

Healthcare facilities need medical coders for accurately assessing ICD-10-CM/PCS, CPT, and DRG/APC assignments for diagnostic and surgical information. Financial reimbursement is often directly related to these numeric codes. Also, the statistical information generated from the codes is used in support of research, quality patient care, education, and administrative decision making.

The Coding Specialist Program is a seven-quarter, evening program with courses covering healthcare records management, ICD-10-CM/PCS, CPT, E&M coding, prospective payment systems, state and federal coding regulations, and hands-on coding practicums. The program is meant to help prepare students for the workforce, as well as for certification from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) as a Certified Coding Associate (CCA) or Certified Coding Specialist (CCS).

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Coding Specialists are in demand in acute care and ambulatory care facilities, including physician office practice and long-term facilities. A variety of government agencies require coding expertise as well. The need for accurate, skilled coders is high throughout the nation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a projected growth for the field of health information technicians, which includes medical coders, that is 13% faster than the average occupation through 2026 ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)).

Salaries for medical coders vary across organizations, healthcare settings, as well as the level of work experience. However, in 2016 AHIMA reported the national salary averages for individuals with 0-2 years of experience and the CCA credential and individuals with 0-2 years of experience and the CCS credential as \$39,320 and \$50,490, respectively ([www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)). Salary averages for California are also consistently higher than the national average.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- High school diploma/GED or a college degree
  - Completion of the following prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better.
    - Anatomy and Physiology
    - Medical Terminology\*
    - Pathophysiology\*
    - Introduction to Computer Applications\*
- \* can be taken while in the program

### Admissions Requirements, cont.

- Completion and submission of the LLU application at [www.llu.edu/apply](http://www.llu.edu/apply) by August 1st for consideration to begin in the Fall.
- Interview, if deemed necessary.

### PROGRAM MISSION

In harmony with the mission of Loma Linda University and the School of Allied Health Professions, the Health Informatics and Information Management department is dedicated to:

- Educating competent medical coding professionals
- Promoting the medical coding profession
- Extending the current knowledge of medical coding professionals at neighboring health care facilities
- Challenging students and department faculty to maintain high standards of ethical and professional behavior
- Encouraging students and faculty to seek a meaningful relationship with God and a balanced Christian lifestyle

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Adhere to the format, organization, and mechanical conventions of the ICD-10-CM/PCS, CPT, E&M, and HCPCS coding systems.
- Determine the appropriate medical codes for healthcare encounters with accuracy and consistency.
- Analyze health record documentation to verify that it is accurate, timely, and complete and that it supports the diagnosis and other clinical findings.
- Supervise health data collection and processing through coding, indexing, and maintaining disease and operation statistics.
- Develop policies and procedures for coding, including a plan for coding quality.
- Comply with federal, state, and professional association guidelines for coding in the healthcare environment.
- Interpret the revenue management cycle in relation to the prospective payment system.
- Perform diagnostic-related group and ambulatory patient-classification assignments using decision trees and computerized patient-data groupers.
- Develop appropriate physician queries to resolve discrepancies in clinical documentation and coding.



## TUITION COSTS

Actual tuition is subject to minor fluctuations from year to year. The tuition for the entire Coding Specialist certificate program is outlined below for the upcoming academic year.

Year One	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Units per quarter:	---	5	4	4
Tuition Rate:	---	x \$236	x \$236	x \$236
Total cost per quarter:	---	\$1180	\$944	\$944
Year Two	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Units per quarter:	4	4	4	5
Tuition Rate:	x \$236	x \$236	x \$236	x \$236
Total cost per quarter:	\$944	\$944	\$944	\$1180

**Program Tuition Costs: \$7,080**

Because this program is less than part-time, it is not eligible for federal financial aid. Please contact the School of Allied Health Professions Finance Office at (909) 558-4973 for information on making payment arrangements.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

The courses for the entire Coding Specialist Certificate program is outlined below.

Fall - Year One		Winter - Year One	Spring - Year One
	HLCS 239 Introduction to Health Record Science (3) HLCS 247 Computer Applications in Healthcare (2)	HLCS 236 Pharmacology (2)  RELE 257 Christian Ethics (2)	HLCS 242 Coding I (4)
	Total Units: 5	Total Units: 4	Total Units: 4
Summer - Year Two	Fall - Year Two	Winter - Year Two	Spring - Year Two
HLCS 243 Coding II (4)	HLCS 245 Coding III (4)	HLCS 254 E&M Coding for Bill- ing and Reimbursement (2) HLCS 961 Coding Practicum I (2)	HLCS 257 Coding Special Topics (3) HLCS 962 Coding Practicum II (2)
Total Units: 4	Total Units: 4	Total Units: 4	Total Units: 5
			Total Program Units: 30

For more information about the Coding Specialist program, contact:	For more information about our Health Information Management (BS) or Health Informatics (MS) programs, contact:	
Ryan Stephan, MA, RHIA, CCS Assistant Professor Program Director, Coding Specialist E-mail: studyhiim@llu.edu  OR  See our full information packet online at: <a href="http://bit.ly/LLUCodingSpecialist">http://bit.ly/LLUCodingSpecialist</a>	Pauline Calla-Cabanada, MBA, RHIA Assistant Professor Program Director, Health Information Management E-mail: studyhiim@llu.edu  OR  See our full information packet online at: <a href="http://bit.ly/LLUHealthInfoAdmin">http://bit.ly/LLUHealthInfoAdmin</a>	Braden Tabisula, MBA, RHIA, CHDA Assistant Professor Program Director, Health Informatics E-mail: studyhiim@llu.edu  OR  See our full information packet online at: <a href="http://bit.ly/LLUHealthInformatics">http://bit.ly/LLUHealthInformatics</a>

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**LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY**

## LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service learning opportunities

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