

Virginia Western Community College

HIM 253

Health Records Coding

Prerequisites

Prerequisite: HLT 143. Co-requisite: HLT 144.

Course Description

Examines the development of coding classification systems. Introduces ICD-10-CM coding classification system, its format and conventions. Stresses basic coding steps and guidelines according to body systems. Provides actual coding exercises in relation to each system covered.

Semester Credits: 4 Lecture Hours: 4 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

Required Materials

ICD-10-CM 2026 The Complete Official Codebook

Optum

Buck's Medical Coding Online for Step-by-Step Medical Coding, 2026 Edition (Instant Access to courseware, Textbook and Workbook), 1st edition

A medical dictionary is strongly encouraged.

Other Required Materials:

none

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to proficiently assign ICD-10 codes to diagnosis.

Tentative Topical Description

This course meets every week.

Week 1	Discussion of Student's intent for coding career, Basic Discussion of Course
Week 2	Discussion of Resource Material
Week 3	Discussion of basic medical terms and billing terms
Week 4	Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting

Week 5	An Overview of the ICD-10-CM
Week 6	Using the ICD-10-CM
Week 7	Third-Party Reimbursement Issues
Final	Exam

Notes to Instructors

None

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)