



HEALTH INFORMATION CAREERS

Mastery Coding Credentials/ CCS and CCS-P Pathway

Quick Facts:

Goal: Obtain coding credentials that recognize master-level coding skills and maximize career opportunities

Time needed to complete path: Three years of on-the-job experience

Average salary: \$56,772 in 2008

What is a CCS or CCS-P?

A Certified Coding Specialist, CCS, is skilled in classifying medical data from patient records. These coding practitioners:

- Review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure
- Possess expertise in the ICD-9-CM and CPT coding systems
- Are knowledgeable about medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology

Coding accuracy is highly important to healthcare organizations, and has an impact on revenues and describing health outcomes. In fact, certification has become an implicit industry standard. Professionals experienced in coding inpatient and outpatient records should consider obtaining this certification.

A Certified Coding Specialist, Physician-based, or CCS-P, is a coding practitioner who specializes in physician-based settings such as physician offices, group practices, multi-specialty clinics, or specialty centers.

What education will I need?

This is not an academic-based credential, but you'll need to have earned a high school diploma from a United States high school or have an equivalent educational background. Although not required, it is strongly recommended that candidates have at least three years of on-the-job experience.

Once I meet the requirements, what's the next step?

You can take a national credentialing exam to get your [CCS](#) or [CCS-P](#) credential. Click on each credential to learn more about the exams.

How can I further my career?

[Professional advanced certifications \(CHDA, CHPS\)](#)

If you don't have an RHIT or RHIA, you may also consider: [Associate education and RHIT credential](#) or [Baccalaureate education and RHIA credential](#)