



9000 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

Medical Insurance Billing & Coding Program Fall 2020/Winter 2021 Syllabus

OFFICE: Fine Arts (FA) Building,
Room 202

OFFICE HOURS: Due to COVID-19,
our office is closed and services are being
provided remotely.

OFFICE VOICEMAIL: 310-287-4475
(please allow up to 72 hrs. for a response
to messages)

OFFICE EMAIL: westside@wlac.edu

CLASSES: held on Saturdays; see schedule

CLASS HOURS: 9am-4pm

CLASS LOCATION:
Live Remote (via Zoom)

INSTRUCTORS:
Xochitl Perez, MBA
Sue Mardirosian, AHIMA Certified Coder

Welcome!

Welcome to Westside Extension's Medical Insurance Billing & Coding Certificate Program! We have wonderful instructors who work in the healthcare industry in several different capacities. You are starting on a journey that has many possibilities. Even if you haven't been a formal student for a while, you learn every day – whether it's a new version of email, a new phone, a new health insurance plan, or a new cooking technique – so know that you can learn this too, and help each other. Peer-to-peer and cohort learning are highly effective. Just set aside study time each week and you'll be fine.

Program Objectives:

Prepare participants for a career in healthcare by providing knowledge and skills related to medical coding and billing and an understanding of the many healthcare office jobs that use such knowledge.

Program Description:

Healthcare is one of the most job-secure fields of the next few decades and knowledge of coding and billing can open lots of doors. Our certificate program will give you such knowledge and skills. The program consists of 10 required classes, totaling more than 80 hours of class time, plus plenty of take-home practice. Developed by professionals in the field, it can be completed in about six months. Participation in the certificate program is not required. Individual classes may be taken as long as you meet prerequisites. However, students who successfully complete all 10 required classes and pass the final exam with 70% or better can earn our program certificate.

The 10 required classes for the program certificate are:

1. Body Systems & Terminology for Billers & Coders - Parts 1, 2, and 3
2. CPT/ HCPCS Coding
3. ICD-10 CM/PCS Coding now #3
4. Advanced Coding
5. Health Insurance & Managed Care, Part 1
6. Health Insurance & Managed Care, Part 2
7. Claims Processing
8. Computer Billing, Part 1
9. Computer Billing, Part 2
10. Hospital Billing

Grades and Certificate:

Westside Extension is the not-for-credit program at West Los Angeles College and no grades are issued. Classes carry no units and do not matriculate. However, this program can end in a certificate for those who complete all 10 classes and pass our final exam with 70% or better. **ONLY THOSE WHO COMPLETE ALL 10 CLASSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM CERTIFICATE.**

Program Payment Options:

Westside Extension is a self-supporting (not funded by taxpayers) program and no student can be enrolled in a class without payment of the class fee. You must pay class fees before attending; only those enrolled can be admitted to class.

For your convenience, classes can be paid-as-you-go, one at a time – but please sign up at least a week in advance of each so we have enough seats and materials. You can sign up online by putting classes in your cart.

You can save \$20 by purchasing four classes all at once; simply click View Course Series under any of the classes online. You'll get another chance to purchase a class bundle in the winter, for another \$20 savings. If you need assistance with any registration or have questions, call the Westside Extension office at 310-287-4475; due to the pandemic, we are working remotely, so please allow up to 72 hours for a response to voicemails.

We work with EDD, Department of Rehab, Horizons, and some other payment programs. Please contact the office for details.

Cancellation Policy:

Refunds and transfers must be processed by the Extension office – you cannot do it yourself online. Requests for refund, transfer, or credit can be granted ONLY if you notify the Westside Extension Office AT LEAST 5 DAYS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. Refunds and credits WILL NOT be issued for absences or late registrations. Notification of cancellation may be done by phone, in person, by mail, or by email. If you purchased a package/series, refunds for individual classes will be based on the discounted amount. A \$10 processing charge will be deducted for each cancellation, except for classes cancelled by Westside Extension. In the event that Westside Extension cancels a class, full refunds will be issued. If you paid by credit card, your account will be credited. If you paid by cash or money order, you will receive a check refund (allow 3-4 weeks for processing) via our business office. A credit toward other Westside Extension classes may be issued in lieu of a refund if you wish.

Required Books:

You will need to purchase most of these in the Fall half of the program, but don't need to purchase all at once. New and used are both fine. See pg. 5 for other places you can purchase the books from. Last year's coding manuals will be a bargain and are perfectly fine for learning. **However, if you take a coding certification exam, you will only be allowed the current year's manuals.** See pages 5 and 6 of syllabus for which books to bring to each class. Books are listed in the order needed.

for Oct. 17, 24, and 31: Body Systems & Terminology

- **Medical Terminology for Health Professionals, 8th Edition**
ISBN# 978-1305634350

for Nov. 7: CPT (HCPCS) Coding

- **CPT (Current Procedural Terminology)**
2021 ISBN# 978-1640160491
- **2020 Official HCPCS Level II Expert Code Book**
ISBN# 978-1622029303

for Nov. 14: ICD-10 CM/PCS Coding

- **ICD-10-CM**
2021 ISBN# 978-1640160811
- **ICD-10-PCS**
2021 ISBN# 978-1640160835

for Nov. 21: Advanced Coding

- **Workbook for Step-by-Step Medical Coding, 2020 Edition**
ISBN# 978-0323694407
- **(optional) Step-by-Step Medical Coding, 2020 Edition By**
Buck ISBN# 978-0323609494

for classes held in Winter 2021

- **Green's Understanding Health Insurance: A Guide to Billing and Reimbursement, 15th Edition**
ISBN# 978-0357378649

WEST L.A. COLLEGE BOOKSTORE has ordered a limited number of books for this program. You can purchase online at http://onlinestore.wlac.edu/buy_courselisting.asp and the books will be mailed to you. Please allow 24-48 hours to process orders.

Also check online at places like Amazon, eBay, DealOz, etc. You can also try medical school bookstores as well.

FALL 2020 PROGRAM CALENDAR

DATE	CLASS	TO DO
Oct. 17	Body Systems & Terminology, Part 1 (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> <i>Medical Terminology for Health Professionals (MTHP)</i> <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.
Oct. 24	Body Systems & Terminology, Part 2 (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> <i>MTHP</i> <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.
Oct. 31	Body Systems & Terminology, Part 3 (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> <i>MTHP</i> <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.
Nov. 7	CPT (HCPCS) Coding (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> CPT and HCPCS manuals <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.

Nov. 14	ICD-10 CM/PCS Coding (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.
Nov. 21	Advanced Coding (Mardirosian)	<u>Bring to Class:</u> Workbook for Step-By-Step Medical Coding (optional) Step-By-Step Medical Coding <u>After Class:</u> Complete any assignments given by instructor.

Winter Class Dates will be announced as soon as possible but no later than Dec. 19. Final Exam will be in March 2021.

Expectations of Participants:

What you get out of this program will be in direct proportion to what you put into it. Some other programs meet (and therefore charge you for) upwards of 700 hours of class time. You can get just as much information and practice in our program, but you can choose when to do it. You only pay for structured class time a few Saturdays a month, when your instructors lay the foundation for your learning; you carve out time that works for you each week to read, study, and practice. If you are able to do this, you take advantage of flexibility/less in-class time, and *much* lower cost.

Cohort and peer-to-peer learning have been shown to be highly effective, so take advantage and form study groups, even if your group meets via Skype, phone, or email. You need to be tech savvy to work in this field, so experiment! If you are not comfortable with a computer keyboard and Excel, it is highly recommended that you become so by the midpoint of the program.

You also need to reflect on and take stock of your existing skills and experience so that, as you learn, you can identify areas in which those skills and knowledge are of value to an employer. As you identify areas/jobs that interest you, research job opportunities to learn more about them. Additionally, it is a good idea to work or volunteer in a healthcare setting if you are able; all hospitals have volunteer programs and many clinics can also find work for volunteers.

Attendance:

Remember that **only those who complete all 10 classes can earn our program certificate.** Instructors will be taking roll at the beginning and end of class, so please make sure you are present the entire time.

If you miss a class, you will have to wait to take it when it is offered with the next cohort. For example, if you miss a class in the Spring you will have to take it when it is offered next in the Fall. That means that you will have to wait at least six months before you can take the class again.

You have two years from the date that you started in the program to complete all 10 classes and receive your certificate. If you are unable to complete the program for any reason, you can still finish as long as you are within that two-year window.

Classroom Conduct:

Westside Extension instructors are committed to building and maintaining an optimal learning environment. An instructor and students form a learning community for the duration of the class/program and all members should conduct themselves in a way that respects others' investment of time and money. Adhering to the following policies help create a positive learning experience for everyone.

- Be on time and remain in class for the entire time in order to get all pertinent info and get attendance credit for the class in order to be eligible for our program certificate. Instructors may exclude latecomers and early leavers at their discretion. Anyone not enrolled – including children – is not permitted in the classroom. Please make arrangements in advance to have reliable childcare.
- Bring needed books and supplies to each class. Stay on schedule with class work. Use the limited class time wisely and please do not talk during lecture unless you are asking relevant questions. It is distracting and rude to the instructor and your classmates.

- Keep your cell phone in vibrate mode and out of sight. Laptops or tablets may be used in class for taking notes or looking up materials for the class. Do not send text messages or emails during class. If you must answer an emergency call, please step out of the classroom. Remember that the instructor cannot hold up the rest of the class to catch you up, so a prolonged absence from the classroom may hurt your learning experience.
- Recording of lectures and discussions is permitted only with the consent of your instructor. If you require special accommodations, please discuss your situation with the Westside Extension office well in advance of your class.
- Any activity that is disruptive or threatening to others, or that weakens the opportunity for others to learn, is unacceptable. Students whose conduct is detrimental to learning (including but not limited to dishonesty, disrespect, theft, property damage, and willful disobedience) may be removed from class without refund and/or denied enrollment.

Dress comfortably, be ready to take notes, and HAVE A GOOD BREAKFAST!

We make every effort to stick to the plan, but of course this syllabus is subject to change if necessary.