

Fundamentals of Medicine

Course Instruction Syllabus • Self-Paced



Prerequisites: None

Clock Hours: 40 (Note: 40 clock hours account only for time spent in the online course and does not include time spent outside of the course or study time. Study time will vary widely per individual.)

Course Length: To be completed at the student's own pace within a 12-month period or less. Enrollment date and start date are set by the instructor. Monthly extensions may be purchased.

Class Hours; Days/Times Per Week: Online course, independent self-study. Students may log in on their own schedule; no classroom meeting times required. Academy support: email help during the week and optional weekly meetings with the instructor.

Certificate of Completion Issued: Yes

Course Description

Students will learn medical terminology, anatomy, and pathophysiology for a wide range of topics, applying what is learned to reading and interpreting a medical record. This course is valuable for anyone preparing for a career in any non-clinical medical profession and strongly recommended for anyone who is preparing for an AAPC certification examination.

Course Objectives

- Identify how to use medical terminology to read a medical record.
- Use anatomic reference systems to identify anatomic positions and landmarks.
- Understand an overview of the pathophysiology of common conditions.

Course Content

- The Medical Record & Introduction to the Body, Disease, and Treatment
- Integumentary System
- Musculoskeletal System
- The Nervous System and Mental Health
- Special Senses – The Sensory Organs
- Endocrine and Lymphatic Systems
- Cardiovascular System
- Respiratory System
- Digestive System
- Urinary and Male Reproductive System
- Female Reproductive System; Pregnancy and Birth
- Immunologic and Hematologic System
- Final Exam

Methods of Evaluation

The instructional methods used include reading assignments, interactive study activities, module review tests, and a final exam. To receive a certificate of completion, students must successfully complete the course within the allotted time frame.

Successful course completion includes:

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- A passing score of 70% or higher on all module review exams
 - A passing score of 70% or higher on the final exam
 - An overall final course score of 70% or higher

No reduced hours in the course or tuition discount for previous education or training will be granted.

Included Textbook

- Fundamentals of Medicine (eBook)

Recommended Textbooks/Supplies (not included)

- Medical dictionary, any publisher

Computer Requirements

High-speed internet connection with a Blackboard-supported operating system and web browser (see AAPC Course Requirements: <https://www.aapc.com/training-and-events/essentials>); Adobe Acrobat Reader. For best experience, use of a mobile device is not recommended.

Course Enrollment Fee

Payment is due in full at time of enrollment unless a written payment arrangement is made with the Academy. Academy tuition for the Fundamentals of Medicine Course Bundle – Self-Paced Online is \$2,250 (see current Program Tuition & Fees). Fees do not include recommended textbooks/supplies or computer requirements, which are purchased separately by the student.

Instructor Support

Curriculum and LMS Blackboard access are provided through AAPC-licensed materials (Blackboard). Your instructor is Danielle LaGravenese, CPC, CRC, AAPC Approved Instructor, Risk Adjustment Coding Academy. Questions on course content may be sent by email during the week. Optional weekly meetings are available if you need them.

This syllabus is an Academy student document based on the official AAPC self-paced Fundamentals of Medicine course outline. Module titles and completion rules follow AAPC requirements.

CRC® Preparation Course

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Prerequisites: Knowledge of medical terminology and anatomy (or AAPC Fundamentals of Medicine / equivalent) is required. Current CPC® or equivalent credential is required unless the student is enrolled in a Full Program package that includes Fundamentals of Medicine.

Clock Hours: 80 (Note: 80 clock hours accounts only for time spent in the online course, and does not include time spent outside the course, live sessions, or study time. Study time will vary widely per individual.)

Course Length: To be completed at the student's own pace within a 12-month period or less. Enrollment date and start date are set by the instructor. Monthly extensions may be purchased.

Class Hours; Days/Times Per Week: Online course, independent self-study. Students may log in on their own schedule; no classroom meeting times required. Academy support: email help during the week and optional weekly meetings with the instructor.

Certificate of Completion Issued: Yes

CEUs: Pending approval - CEUs upon completion (AAPC certified prior to enrollment; some certifications excluded — see AAPC website).

Course Description

The student will learn principles of risk adjustment and accurate diagnosis coding. The course covers predictive modeling, the financial impact of risk adjustment coding, documentation challenges, official diagnosis coding guidelines, and diagnosis coding in ICD-10-CM. This course is recommended for anyone who is currently working in risk adjustment or wants to learn risk adjustment coding.

Course Objectives

- Define different models of risk adjustment (HCC, CDPS, HHS-ACA, Hybrid)
- Understand predictive modeling and its impact on risk adjustment
- Explain risk adjustment impact on financial matters
- Apply official ICD-10-CM coding guidelines
- Identify elements of the medical record
- Identify documentation deficiencies for diagnosis coding
- Understand the most common conditions in risk adjustment and how to properly code in ICD-10-CM

Course Content

- Pharmacology
- Risk Adjustment Models
 - Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC)
 - Medicaid Chronic Illness and Disability Payment System (CDPS)
 - Hybrid models
- Predictive Modeling & Quality of Care
 - Predictive modeling impact
 - Suspect logic
 - Quality of care
 - Star ratings
- Risk Adjustment and Financial Matters
 - HCC RAF score
 - Financial impact based on coding
- ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines
- Diagnosis Documentation and Coding

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- Common errors in diagnosis coding
- Elements of the medical record
- Documentation Barriers
 - Signatures
 - Insufficient documentation
 - Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) process
 - Official diagnosis coding guidelines
- Frequently coded conditions
 - Acute vs. Chronic conditions
 - Differential Diagnosis
 - Risk Factors and Comorbidities
 - Angina
 - Artificial Openings
 - BMI and Obesity
 - Cardiac Conduction Disorders
 - Cardiomyopathy
 - CVA
 - CKD, Dialysis, and AV Fistula
 - COPD
 - Complications of Care
 - Congestive Heart Failure
 - Cor Pulmonale
 - DVT
 - Dementia
 - Depression
 - Diabetes and Secondary Diabetes
 - Epilepsy & Convulsions
 - GERD
 - Hepatitis & Cirrhosis
 - HIV
 - Hypercholesterolemia
 - Hypertension
 - Hypothyroidism
 - Klebsiella Pneumoniae
 - Malnutrition & Cachexia
 - Myocardial Infarction
 - Neoplasms
 - Neuropathy
 - Pneumonia
 - Pulmonary Embolism
 - Pulmonary Hypertension
 - Respirator/Ventilator Status
 - Septicemia & Sepsis
 - Ulcers & Wounds
 - Varicose Veins

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- Vertebral Fractures
- Practical Expertise
 - Practical diagnosis coding skills utilizing cases for practical application

Methods of Evaluation

The instructional methods used include reading assignments, quizzes, practical applications, interactive audio/video lectures, chapter review exams, and a final exam. To receive a certificate of completion, students must successfully complete the course within the allotted time frame (monthly extensions may be purchased).

Successful course completion includes:

- An attempt on all chapter quizzes and practical applications
- A passing score of 70% or higher on all chapter review exams
- A passing score of 70% or higher on the final exam
- An overall final course score of 70% or higher

No reduced hours in the course or tuition discount for previous education or training will be granted.

Included with this course

- AAPC Student Membership
- Medical Coding Training: CRC™ textbook (eBook)
- Pro Fee Bundle (eBooks)
- CRC Practice Exams
- CRC Exam Vouchers (2 attempts)
- Practicode CRC Practicum
- LMS student access (Blackboard)
- Pending approval CEUs on successful completion (if eligible)
- Live coaching twice a week (8 hours per week) on Microsoft Teams, plus Q&A as needed

Required Code Book (Not Included)

- ICD-10-CM (current year) is included in the Pro Fee Bundle. No separate code-book purchase is required for this package.

Computer Requirements

High-speed internet connection with a Blackboard-supported operating system and web browser; Adobe Acrobat Reader. Microsoft Teams is required for weekly Q&A. For best experience, use of a mobile device and the Blackboard app is not recommended.

Course Enrollment Fee

Academy tuition for CRC® Certification Course – Self-Paced Online is \$2,750. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Medicine (or equivalent). Payment is due in full at time of the enrollment unless a written payment arrangement is made with the Academy. Fees do not include the required ICD-10-CM code book or computer requirements. See current Program Tuition & Fees on the Academy website. CRC packages include AAPC Student Membership, Pro Fee Bundle (eBooks), CRC Practice Exams (3), CRC Exam Vouchers (2 attempts), Practicode CRC Practicum, LMS access, CRC textbook (eBook), 12 months curriculum access, and Pending approval CEUs (CRC).

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Instructor Support

Weekly Q&A is on Microsoft Teams. Questions may also be emailed to the instructor during the week. Curriculum and LMS access are provided through AAPC-licensed materials (Blackboard). Instructor: Danielle LaGravenese, CPC, CRC, AAPC Approved Instructor, Risk Adjustment Coding Academy.

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