



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Programs at Northwest Iowa Community College for the Fall of 2010

Two new Programs have been developed for the fall of 2010 at Northwest Iowa Community College. The programs are Medical Coding and Extended Associate Degree Nursing.

Medical Coding is a two semester Diploma program. Medical coders or coding specialists specialize in codifying patients' information for reimbursement purposes. Medical coders assign a code to each diagnosis and procedure by using classification systems software. The classification system determines the amount for which healthcare providers will be reimbursed if the patient is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurance programs using the system. Students will have the opportunity to obtain a Certified Coding Associate (CAA) credential.

The employment for medical coders is expected to grow much faster than average. Job prospects should be very good, especially for technicians with strong computer skills. The demand for coders had never been greater, and this need is expected to continue for some years into the future. The average salary for a medical coder is \$20,500-\$30,000.

Extended Associate Degree Nursing (EADN) is a three semester and one summer term Associate of Applied Science degree program. The EADN completion program is designed for students who have successfully completed the Practical Nursing Program at NCC, or for the Licensed Practical Nurse eligible to practice in Iowa who wishes to continue study for an Associate Degree in Nursing (RN).

Students in the EADN Program learn current nursing theory through comprehensive hybrid classes and laboratory sessions and apply this knowledge in a clinical/preceptorship at cooperating healthcare facilities. The curriculum prepares students in medical-surgical, geriatric, obstetrical, pediatric, and psychiatric nursing area. Graduates may also transfer credits to a four-year program for continued education in nursing.

The employment opportunities for EADN students are working in clinics, as a traveling nurse, in Home Health, in industrial nursing, in nursing homes, and in hospitals. Associate Degree Nursing Program graduates have exceptional pass rates for the NCLEX-RN exam. The typical job placement rate for NCC nursing students is 100%. The average salary in northwest Iowa is \$18-\$28/hour.

Ruth Hobson, NCC Nursing Instructor, commented, "The Extended Associate Degree Nursing (EADN) Program extends the time students are in school by one semester more than the current Associate Degree Nursing Program. The EADN program also has more of the classes as online learning. In doing this we are hoping to appeal to LPN's who need to maintain a full time job while working toward their Associate's Degree in Nursing. At the community college level, many of our students are non-traditional and need this type of flexibility in order to continue on with their education."

For more information contact the Admissions Office at studentservices@nwicc.edu or call 324-5061 or 800-352-4907. Visit our website at www.nwicc.edu. At NCC There's a Place For You!