Health Sciences Programs at a Glance

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For more information on health sciences programs and the admissions process, visit www.pittcc.edu (click on > academics > programs > health sciences). State salary information unless otherwise noted. **Indicates programs that require previous healthcare education and/or credential(s) in order to apply for admission.*

ADVANCED MEDICAL CODING CERTIFICATE* $49,730 national average (AHIMA)

The Advanced Medical Coding curriculum provides the didactic and clinical experience necessary to become competent credentialed coders. Coursework includes reimbursement, advanced International Classification of Diseases-10th Revision-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). Graduates may be eligible to take either of the Certified Coding Specialist exams: the Certificate Specialist and/or the Certificated Coding Specialist-Physician Based (CCS/CCS-P). Individuals entering this curriculum must be a graduate of a Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM) accredited health information program.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING $43,910 entry-$61,330 average (CFNC)

The Associate Degree Nursing curriculum provides knowledge, skills, and strategies to integrate safety and quality into nursing care, to practice in a dynamic environment, and to meet individual needs which impact health, quality of life, and achievement of potential. Course work includes and builds upon the domains of healthcare, nursing practice, and the holistic individual. Content emphasizes the nurse as a member of the interdisciplinary team providing safe, individualized care while employing evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics. Graduates of this program are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). Employment opportunities are vast within the global health care system and may include positions within acute, chronic, extended, industrial, and community health care facilities.

BREAST SONOGRAPHY CERTIFICATE* $49,640 entry-$64,630 average (CFNC)

The Breast Sonography curriculum provides registered mammographers the didactic and clinical experience necessary to become registered breast sonographers. Course work includes breast pathophysiology; physics, instrumentation, and equipment operation necessary to perform diagnostic and interventional breast sonography procedures; and clinical breast image production and evaluation. Graduates may be eligible to apply to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam in Breast Sonography.

CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY AAS DEGREE (Echocardiography Diploma* also available) $48,640 national average (CFNC)

The Echocardiography curriculum provides the individual with the knowledge and skills necessary to acquire, process, and evaluate the human heart using high frequency sound waves to produce images of the heart. Course work includes effective communication and patient care skills combined with knowledge of physics, human anatomy, physiology and pathology all of which are essential to obtaining high quality sonographic images. Graduates may be eligible to apply to the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for examinations in physics, cardiovascular physics, and adult echocardiography. Graduates may find employment in hospitals, physician's offices, mobile services, and educational institutions.

CT/MRI DIPLOMA* (CT Certificate* & MRI Certificate* also available) $68,420 average (BLS.gov)

The Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology curriculum prepares the individual to use specialized equipment to visualize cross-sectional anatomical structures and aid physicians in the demonstration of pathologies and disease processes. Individuals entering this curriculum must be registered or registry- eligible radiologic technologist, radiation therapist, or nuclear medicine technologist. Course work prepares the technologist to provide patient care and perform studies utilizing imaging equipment, professional communication, and quality assurance in scheduled and emergency procedures through academic and clinical studies. Graduates may be eligible to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist Advanced-Level testing in Computed Tomography and/or Magnetic Resonance Imaging examinations. They may find employment in facilities which perform these imaging procedures.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SCIENCE AAS DEGREE (EMS AAS Degree Bridge* also available) $26,480 entry-$37,260 average/local (CFNC)

The Emergency Medical Science curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge, skills and attributes to provide advanced emergency medical care as a paramedic for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system and prepares graduates to enter the workforce. Students will gain complex knowledge, competency, and experience while employing evidence-based practice under medical oversight, and serve as a link from the scene into the healthcare system. Graduates of this program may be eligible to take state and/or national certification examinations. Employment opportunities include providers of emergency medical services, fire departments, rescue agencies, hospital specialty areas, industry, educational and government agencies.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AAS DEGREE $40,110 national average (AHIMA)

The Health Information Technology curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to process, analyze, abstract, compile, maintain, manage, and report health information. Students will supervise departmental functions; classify, code and index diagnoses and procedures; coordinate information for cost control, quality management, statistics, marketing, and planning; monitor governmental and non-governmental standards; facilitate research; and design system controls to monitor patient information security. Graduates of this program may be eligible to write the national certification examination to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT). Employment opportunities include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, health insurance organizations, out-patient clinics, physicians' offices, hospice, and mental health facilities.

MAMMOGRAPHY CERTIFICATE* $58,448 national average (EMSI)

The Mammography curriculum provides registered radiologic technologists the didactic and clinical experience necessary to become registered mammographers. Course work includes clinical rotations to mammography facilities, breast anatomy/physiology, patient preparation/education, mammographic procedures, interventional procedures, image analysis, mammographic instrumentation, physics, quality control, and quality assurance. Graduates will meet the Mammography Quality Standards Act initial training requirements for mammography and may be eligible to apply to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) post primary certification in Mammography.

MEDICAL ASSISTING AAS DEGREE $23,530 entry-$31,460 average (CFNC)

The Medical Assisting curriculum prepares multi-skilled health care professionals qualified to perform administrative, clinical, and laboratory procedures. Course work includes instruction in scheduling appointments, coding and processing insurance accounts, billing, collections, computer operations, assisting with examinations/ treatments, performing routine laboratory procedures, electrocardiography, supervised medication administration; and ethical/legal issues associated with patient care. Graduates of CAAHEP-accredited medical assisting programs may be eligible to sit for the American Association of Medical Assistants' Certification Examination to become Certified Medical Assistants. Employment opportunities include physicians' offices, health maintenance organizations, health departments, and hospitals.

MEDICAL DOSIMETRY DIPLOMA* $80,500 national average (Careerbuilder.com)

The Medical Dosimetry curriculum is designed to prepare individuals to work in the care of cancer patients as medical dosimetrist. The curriculum provides instruction to enable the participant to become a member of the radiation oncology team. The curriculum content includes specific coursework to provide classroom and direct clinical experience to train the student in the fundamentals of medical dosimetry practice using current technology, tools and techniques. Students will participate in studies related to the role of the medical dosimetrist and professional ethics, radiation oncology anatomy, treatment planning, dose calculations, clinical oncology, brachytherapy, dosimetry physics, radiation protection, quality assurance and computer applications. Graduates of the program will be able to obtain employment as a medical dosimetrist and apply to the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) to sit for a national certification.

MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY AAS DEGREE $49,640 entry-$64,630 average (CFNC)

The Medical Sonography curriculum provides knowledge and clinical skills in the application of high frequency sound waves to image internal body structures. Course work includes physics, cross-sectional anatomy, and abdominal, introductory vascular and obstetrical/gynecological sonography. Competencies are attained in identification of normal anatomy and pathological processes, use of equipment, fetal growth and development, integration of related imaging, and patient interaction skills. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to take examinations in ultrasound physics and instrumentation and specialty examinations administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and find employment in clinics, physicians' offices, mobile services, hospitals, and educational institutions.

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY AAS DEGREE (Nuclear Medicine Diploma* also available) $52,730 entry-$66,890 average (CFNC)

The Nuclear Medicine Technology curriculum provides the clinical and didactic experience necessary to prepare students to qualify as entry-level nuclear medicine technologists. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to properly perform clinical procedures. These skills include patient care, use of radioactive materials, operation of imaging and counting instrumentation, and laboratory procedures. Graduates may be eligible to apply for certification/registration examinations given by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT AAS DEGREE $42,870 entry-$60,690 average (CFNC)

The Occupational Therapy Assistant curriculum prepares individuals to work under the supervision of a registered/licensed occupational therapist in screening, assessing, planning, and implementing treatment and documenting progress for clients receiving occupational therapy services. Course work includes human growth and development, conditions which interfere with activities of daily living, theory and process of occupational therapy, individual/group treatment activities, therapeutic use of self, activity analysis, and grading/adapting activities and environments. Graduates may be eligible to take the national certification examination for practice as a certified occupational therapy assistant. Employment opportunities include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, long-term/extended-care facilities, sheltered workshops, schools, home health programs, and community programs.

POLYSOMNOGRAPHY AAS DEGREE (Polysomnography AAS Bridge* and Certificate* also available) $46,438 average/local (Indeed.com)

The Polysomnography curriculum prepares individuals, working in conjunction with a physician, to perform and interpret sleep studies and to provide comprehensive clinical evaluations that are required for the diagnosis of sleep related disorders. Students should acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to perform sleep studies, including recording and interpreting events observed during sleep. Treatment of sleep related disorders and patient education focused on healthy sleep habits will also be discussed. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to apply to take the examination offered by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists. Employment opportunities may be found in hospitals and freestanding sleep centers.

POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY DIPLOMA* (PET Certificate* also available) $52,730 entry-$66,890 average (CFNC)

The Positron Emission Tomography curriculum prepares individuals, working in conjunction with PET Technologist, to perform related PET radiopharmacy, procedures, and safety. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to perform PET studies, including the use of PET/CT and PET/CT fusion. Past, present and future PET issues and studies will also be discussed. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to take the registry examination given by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. Employment opportunities can be found in hospitals, freestanding PET centers and mobile PET companies.

RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMA* $56,130 entry-$76,600 average (CFNC)

The Radiation Therapy Diploma is designed to train students to work in conjunction with nurses, physicists, and physicians in the application of prescribed doses of ionizing radiation for the treatment of disease, primarily cancer. Course work includes physics, anatomy and physiology, dosimetry, and clinical oncology. The student will be skilled in treatment management, administration of prescribed radiation treatment, and provision of patient support. Graduates may be eligible to sit for the National Radiation Therapy Exam, given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Employment opportunities can be found in hospitals and freestanding cancer centers.

RADIOGRAPHY AAS DEGREE $40,800 entry-$56,860 average (CFNC)

The Radiography curriculum prepares the graduate to be a radiographer, a skilled health care professional who uses radiation to produce images of the human body. Course work includes clinical rotations to area health care facilities, radiographic exposure, image processing, radiographic procedures, physics, pathology, patient care and management, radiation protection, quality assurance, anatomy and physiology, and radiobiology. Graduates of accredited programs are eligible to apply to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' national examination for certification and registration as medical radiographers. Graduates may be employed in hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, medical laboratories, government agencies, and industry.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY AAS DEGREE $42,540 entry-$54,310 average (CFNC)

The Respiratory Therapy curriculum prepares individuals to function as respiratory therapists. In these roles, individuals perform diagnostic testing, treatments, and management of patients with heart and lung diseases. Students will master skills in patient assessment and treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases. These skills include life support, monitoring, drug administration, and treatment of patients of all ages in a variety of settings. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to take entry-level examinations from the National Board of Respiratory Care. Therapy graduates may also take the Advanced Practitioner examination. Graduates may be employed in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, education, industry, and home care.