

BridgeValley

SUCCESS STORIES



There is no perfect time to go back to school. My best advice to anyone considering starting a new career is to pick the program length that is right for you and stay dedicated!

While I have a bachelor's degree in education, I decided I wanted a job where I would not have to take work home at the end of the day. I wanted to spend more time with my family and ultimately provide better opportunities for my children. Once I decided to



make a career change, I knew that BridgeValley was local and would be the most affordable option.

I completed the two-semester Medical Coding certificate program with instructor Maggie McCabe. Going through the program prepared me to pass the Certified Professional Coder (CPC) exam with honors. It also gave me hands-on experience coding at a local hospital.

Because of the small class sizes, I was able to build relationships with my classmates and get to know my instructor. This made the day-to-day experience of going to class much more fulfilling and enjoyable.

It also made a huge difference when it came to studying! Balancing school, part-time work and parenting four children was a struggle. However, being able to study with my classmates and depend on my husband when I needed to complete assignments made it possible for me to complete my Medical Coding certificate.

As soon as I completed the program, I was hired as a coder for West Virginia University Physicians of Charleston. It has been a great learning environment, and I was able to have my American Academy of Professional Coders apprentice designation removed after just one year. It was so validating to use the information that I had learned in class at BridgeValley!

There is no perfect or easy time to go back to school. My best advice to anyone considering starting a new career is to pick the program length that is right for you and stay dedicated! A two-semester program gave me new opportunities and financial stability.

**- Kendra Berkhouse, CPC
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