

# Community College Vs Online Education

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When considering your options for a good medical transcription training program, you will find that the two predominant alternatives are a traditional "brick and mortar" education through a local community college, or an online training program. Many community colleges do a really great job of teaching the fundamentals of transcription: things like terminology and human anatomy. You will also tend to move through a college program in a cohort group. Many people like the idea of progressing in concert with a class of like-minded students. Another advantage is access to a full or part time instructor. The primary drawback of a community college MT education is that most of these programs generally lack several elements that are important to the medical transcription training process. For example:

1. Most community college programs "borrow" as much program curriculum as possible from other departments. In other words you may be sitting through a human anatomy class that is designed for a nursing program. And while this is not the worst thing in the world, you will not be focusing on the aspects of anatomy that are most needed for medical transcription. You may end up studying a lot of content that is not terribly relevant to an MT career and you may not pay enough attention to the things that are important for a transcriptionist to know, such as spelling and context.

You may also find yourself enrolled in a traditional English grammar class to fill a requirement when if you had spent the same amount of time in a grammar class that was designed for transcriptionists you would be so much further ahead. For more details [www.profit-pulling-niches.com](http://www.profit-pulling-niches.com) In other words, an MT grammar class will expose you to grammar terms in the context of medical language. All the examples of grammar rules, punctuation, and sentence structure will be taught with a medical language focus so that you are advancing your transcription skills at the same time you are learning or reviewing the basic rules of grammar.

2. Most community college MT training programs lack a comprehensive practicum. If you are to succeed in your quest to become a transcriptionist, it is imperative that you spend at least 50% of your training time on real physician dictated practice transcription. I cannot overemphasize this. This is the most common reason for failure in a training program. Compare it to a learning foreign language. You can learn to conjugate a hundred verbs, but until you go speak with the natives for some significant period of time, you will never become fluent. Learning to recognize a medical term you see in a book is insufficient. You must have the practice to go along with it - to hear it in context and recognize it. Similarly, learning to recognize the notes on a page will not sufficiently prepare you to play a clarinet. You have to go through the actual practice - and the more the better.

3. Most community college programs will not have the deep placement and employment connections with national transcription employers to ensure your smooth transition to your first medical transcription job. This cannot be overemphasized. At the end of the day your training will only be as good as the introductions you will receive to prospective employers and the credibility they assign to your program. Most community college programs are small and inconsequential in the grand scheme of things. It is hard for them to gain traction in the placement market because they simply don't graduate enough people through their training program each year to warrant a lot of attention from large national employers who employ thousands of transcriptionists.

For these reasons, I would recommend an online medical transcription training program that has a practicum rich curriculum and deep industry relationships with employers. It is an unusual bonus that these programs tend to be priced significantly less than the average brick and mortar community college program. This is owing in large measure to the scalable format of the online educational model and the lower overhead required to support these programs. For more details [www.workplace-warriors.com](http://www.workplace-warriors.com) Further, the online format more closely approximates the real world work environment that you will experience as a work at home transcriptionist once you graduate. The opportunities in this career field are still exceptional. There is a growing demand, being fueled in large part by the national demographic trends of a rapidly aging population. There has never been a better time to enter this exciting field.

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