**Final Reflective Essay**

Chanel Schear

GS- 299 Integrative Capstone

Professor Morrow

06/17/2024

The decision to move from the nursing program to the general studies elective was based on my interest in medical coding over bedside patient care. Additionally, I am fascinated by the technical aspects of medical coding as I view it as a suitable career path for me in the healthcare industry. Most of the electives I selected are based on science and nursing, which will provide me with a good foundation for understanding healthcare systems and technical concepts related to the medical coding career path.

Some of the courses selected such as anatomy and physiology and healthcare information systems are interconnected and provide a foundation of the technical concepts common in the medical coding field. For instance, while studying anatomy and physiology in nursing is essential for understanding the structure and functions of body systems, concepts drawn from these courses helped me develop analytical skills to understand complex systems, attention to detail through the interaction of different organs, and critical thinking related to the application of theoretical knowledge in patient care. The healthcare information systems course explored as part of the nursing program also equipped me with technical skills and perspectives on data management, medical data coding, and how to approach healthcare information systematically to promote adherence to regulatory standards.

Healthcare information systems and other science and nursing-related courses I have studied at SUNY Erie are interconnected. The nursing and science courses focused on patient care, healthcare systems, disease classification through the ICD-10 codes, care provision processes, and the role of different healthcare providers, which are concepts useful for medical coding professionals. Learning about health information systems, medical terminologies, and nursing care processes helped me develop technical skills and an understanding of different health conditions. Some of the similarities shared by the courses that contributed to my matriculation as a qualified professional for the medical coding career path entailed their integration of theoretical knowledge and practical application and emphasis on details, which is essential for analyzing patients’ health care information, medical services offered, diagnosis, and treatment plan and translating the data into alphanumerical codes recognized nationally. Differentiating factors between the courses studied also expanded my skills by allowing me to understand concepts ranging from patient delivery approaches to pharmacology intervention for different medical conditions. Although I still need to learn many concepts as part of the medical coding career path, the knowledge collected from the different courses has overall equipped me with the necessary skills.

Some of the key contributions of the courses explored through my nursing and science background include precision and accuracy, technical proficiency, and analytical skills. Understanding the human body and medical terminologies and becoming proficient with healthcare information systems are critical factors for developing a successful career in medical coding. I believe that my background in nursing played a significant role in promoting my acceptance in the medical coding course.

While the transition from nursing to medical coding career path will have its challenges, I believe that my nursing education background and overall experience with the healthcare system will help me grasp medical coding concepts easily. Since both nursing and medical coding are in the medical field, basic concepts taught in nursing will also be applicable to the general studies degree. Generally, the interconnection of different healthcare education programs will promote the transferability of my skills from nursing to medical coding.