

Medical Assistant Program

Program Summary

The Medical Assistant program uses the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) curriculum for medical assistant, which is also used throughout the entire WTCS.

Upon successful completion of this CAAHEP accredited medical assisting program, the graduate can take the AAMA CMA exam. Once the graduate has passed this exam, he/she can use the CMA (AAMA) credential. CMA stand for Certified Medical Assistant.

Program Goals

1. To prepare medical assistants who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.
2. To provide a program that is eligible for CAAHEP accreditation, which enables students to sit for the American Association of Medical Assistants national certification exam.

Medical Assistant Program Outcomes

Upon graduation from the Medical Assistant Program, the student will be able to:

1. Perform medical office administrative functions.
2. Provide patient care in accordance with regulations, policies, laws, and patient rights.
3. Perform medical laboratory procedures.
4. Demonstrate professionalism in a healthcare setting.
5. Demonstrate safety and emergency practices in a healthcare setting.

Accreditation Information

The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Medical Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org), upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 9355 113th St. N, #7709, Seminole, FL 33775, phone (727) 210-2350.

Program Effectiveness

Every year the medical assistant program completes and annual report on program effectiveness for MAERB. The report consists of data for enrollment, retention and graduation, graduate and employer satisfaction, job placement and national exam participation and passing rates.

Year	Retention	Graduate Survey Participation/ Satisfaction	Job Placement*	Employer Survey Participation/ Satisfaction	CMA(AAMA) Exam Passage Percent
2020	96.67%	84.21%/100%	57.89%	100%	92.86%
MAERB Threshold	>=60%	>=30%/>=80%	>=60%	>=100%/>=80%	>=60%

*Positive Placement is defined by MAERB as “work in medical assisting or related field, continuing in school or entering the military”.

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Occupational Risks

Medical Assisting is a profession with many rewards, as practitioners can perform both administrative and clinical services, filling several roles in a variety of healthcare environments. The Bureau of Labor Statistics clearly outlines that it is a growth field, with an anticipated 18% growth from 2020 to 2030.

Medical Assistants work directly with providers and patients, with the goal of providing healthcare and ensuring patient safety. It is a position with a great deal of responsibility.

As with any healthcare position, there are certain occupational risks that come into play with being a medical assistant, and those hazards can include the following:

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries
- Bloodborne pathogens and biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Ergonomic hazards from falling, lifting, sitting, and repetitive tasks
- Latex allergies
- Stress

At the same time; however, there are protections set up with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and those protections are particularly important within the healthcare environment. OSHA has a series of standards that protect the safety of healthcare workers and patients alike.

Accredited medical assisting programs are required to teach students about the hazards that they face on the job and the protocols that can be put into place to ensure a workplace culture that prioritizes safety.