

What can you do with a major in Medical Assistant?

Campus(s) program is offered: Austell and Appalachian Campuses

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?

Medical Assistant and Certified Medical Assistant (if the CMA exam is successfully passed)

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?

The program is short in length (one year). Students also express that they enjoy learning administrative and clinical duties. The gratification that they get from helping others as well as personal pride that they are contributing to society and making a difference.

What is the least?

The clinical classes are long in hours. The many different personalities in the medical field as well as sometimes patients that are not feeling well or are not in the best mood.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

The classes in this program are not heavy in content. Students will not have to draw blood or give injections on each other in class. That this is not a growing field. Many see medical assistants as a 9-5 job office job with little growth. This is far from the truth it is one of the leading areas of medical growth at this time and expected to continue to grow especially with insurance policy changes.

What are some essential skills a student needs to have to be successful in this program ?

Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Monitoring — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Service Orientation — Actively looking for ways to help people.

What are some essential abilities a student needs to have to be successful in this program?

Problem Sensitivity — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.

Near Vision — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Information Ordering — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).

Written Expression — The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.

What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?

- Ability to document accurately in the chart of a patient
- Knowledge of Medisoft medical computer program
- Know how to properly give injections and in the proper sites on the body
- Know how to properly perform venipuncture and finger sticks
- Prepare patients for physical examination

- Ability to perform EKGs and vital signs
- Assist physician with examinations and minor office surgery
- Learn suture/staple removal
- Learn about nutrition and give patient information about special diets
- Learn about different drug classifications and how they work and affect the different body systems
- Learn how to schedule patient procedures/office visits with adequate time

Typical work activities/occupational functions:

- Take medical histories and recording vital signs
- Explain treatment procedures to patients
- Prepare patients for examination
- Assist the physician during the examination
- Collect and prepare laboratory specimens or perform basic laboratory tests on the premises, dispose of contaminated supplies, and sterilize medical instruments
- Instruct patients about medication and special diets, prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician, authorize drug refills as directed, telephone prescriptions to a pharmacy
- Draw blood, prepare patients for x rays, take electrocardiograms, remove sutures, and change dressings
- Arrange examining room instruments and equipment

What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

If a student desires to become a Medical Office Manager he or she should look into completing the Medical Assisting Associate of Applied Science Degree.

Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

Pre-requisite classes for the AAS do transfer. Once the student is in the cohort it is hard to transfer courses such as MAST 1108 (Skills one). These usually transfer as hours to another institution. They normally show up as credits in the science area.

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

There are no limitations that students face in this program

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

Graduates of the Medical Assisting program are eligible to take the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam with the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA). This exam and certification is recognized nationally. Students will need to be certified. All of our Medical Assistants are required to sit for the AAMA at the end of their program. These students are offered the American Association of Medical Assistants.

Possible employment settings:

Hospitals, Physician’s Offices, Surgery Centers, Dental Offices, Insurance Companies, Outpatient Clinics

Names of potential employers:

Emory Healthcare	Piedmont Hospital	Northside Hospital
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta	WellStar Health System	Grady Healthcare System
Cobb Medical Associates	WellStreet Urgent Care	Concentra

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