



Medical Assisting Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will I be able to maintain a full-time job while in the cohort portion of the Medical Assisting program?

No. Your classes will be 3-5 days a week (depending on the course). Most classes that require students to be on campus will begin by 9:00 A.M. and will go through 4:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday.

Q: Will I be able to choose my own externship?

No. We have preexisting contracts with extern facilities that we utilize. Occasionally we consider establishing new contracts with facilities; however, the program director makes the decision if the possible new location is suitable. We also try to keep the externship within 25 miles one way of the student's home.

Q: Can I set my own hours at the extern facility?

No. We ask our students to be on their externship between 31-40 hours a week for a total of 240 hours of externship to complete. The hours are assigned by the facility.

Q: Where do Medical Assistants work?

The medical assistant field is growing tremendously and showing up in all areas of health care. The most common areas are doctor's offices, urgent care centers, and same-day surgery clinics.

Q: Why is it important that I am AAMA certified?

This certification offers proof to employers that a medical assistant has achieved the highest standards of education and credentialing in the medical assisting field.

Q: How are the classes taught in the Medical Assisting Program?

Classes are taught face-to-face, hybrid, and online. How a particular class is taught is dependent on the content of the class. At the Appalachian Campus, there are currently three classes taught strictly online with the remaining classes offered as hybrid and/or web-enhanced. Externship is face-to-face.

Q: What is the salary of a Medical Assistant?

The salary of a Medical Assistant is based on a many factors: experience, geographical location, the medical office, etc. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics Website](#)¹ provides the average salary nationally and geographically for Medical Assistants.

Q: What are the typical hours of a Medical Assistant?

Medical Assistants typically work Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. These hours may vary dependent upon the medical facility. There are a growing number of doctor's offices offering services on Saturdays.

Q: Will I be required to have my blood drawn and/or injections given to me in class?

Yes. We have a stick-for-stick guideline in the Medical Assisting Program. This means that for every stick (venipuncture, injection, finger stick) you give, be prepared to receive a stick.

Q: What is the dress code for the class and clinical sites?

You are required to be in full uniform both in class and at all externship sites.

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¹ <https://www.bls.gov/>