

S1: It's definitely good in a challenging way to where it makes me push myself to the next level.

S2: The medical assisting profession is crucial to the success of an office.

S3: Students who come into this program, they're going to get a real world experience.

S2: They're the person that defines a patient's experience at their physician's office as either being a positive one or negative by

S4: ninety eight point seven Chatt Tech where ninety eight point seven percent of our students earn a career. In today's episode, we're going to take a look at the medical assisting program at Chattahoochee Technical College. What exactly is this program? Well, the website says this medical assistance program covers a broad range of topics involving the modern medical practice, such as anatomy and physiology, legal and ethical concerns, medical terminology and medical insurance management. And yeah, that is kind of helpful, but it's probably easier to just talk directly to students and instructors and ask, right? And that's why we're here.

S1: OK. My name is Amber Sims. I am currently enrolled in the medical assisting program at Chattahoochee. I am married and I recently just had a daughter.

S4: So the first question for Amber is simple. What made you choose this program?

S1: Actually, when I was in the hospital, when I had my daughter, there were two medical assistance there that just went above and beyond. No matter what I was going through with scarce anything like that. They were there to answer questions for support. So I knew that I wanted to follow what they did. I knew I wanted to help people when they were in a scary time, too, for the way they helped me.

S4: OK, I just need to say something. We're not going to reenact a scary labor and childbirth you. I'm talking to you back there. You got me.

S3: Wait, seriously. Then why did I buy all this Jell-O?

S4: What is wrong with you? Sorry about that. Let's find out some details about this program.

S5: My name is Dr. Jane Muriithi. I am the program director for the medical assisting program at Chattahoochee Tech, the Marietta Campus. So my background is in medicine. I have practice in the medical field for the last 10 years, and one of the things I found working in the medical field is the medical system plays a huge role because more or less all of the fast liners with the patient before the physician actually deals with the patient. And I had a passion to come back and teach because when you teach a good medical assistant, not only do they know how to interact with the patient, but you also give them the best of once they're in the doctor's office. So I transition from working in a doctor's office and transition into teaching to prepare great and excellent medical assistance. So pretty much my background has been I have worked in the field and I know what it takes to have a great medical assistant.

S3: My name is Sandra Caspary and I am program director and instructor over the medical assisting program here at the college's Appalachian campus. My the closest thing is designed to prepare students for employment in a medical office, and that could be a variety of different types of medical offices. So say a student was interested in working in OB-GYN, or maybe a student was interested in working with children so they would like to specialize in going into pediatrics? Or, let's say, the heart, really interest that particular students. They want to work in a cardiologist office. So students, really, when they enter this program, they are taught the skills that they can transfer with them, no matter what specialty they decide to go into once they complete the the program. So that's one of the really nice aspects about medical assisting is that they're very multi-functional. A medical assistant will perform both front office administrative type skills as well as back office what we call our clinical type skills. It's a quite lengthy list.

S4: Does that help explain it a little bit?

S5: Now, I must add this most people usually will talk about a medical assistant is always the right hand of the doctor. So if you have a medical assistant who understand how the doctor wants the office ran, then that office of that facility runs real smoothly. So my goal at the end of the day, even as teaching is to make sure that that medical assistant understands the importance of their role working in the office on alongside a doctor.

S4: Let's bring amber back. She told us earlier that she entered this program specifically because of the medical assistance that helped her when she gave birth to her daughter. Amber, what happened?

S1: Like, I mean, I went into labor with my daughter and I ended up having to have a C-section in surgery, which was unplanned. It was an emergency. So I was very scared and very antsy about that. And these two medical assistance, they walked me through the whole procedure, call me down kind of went over what was going to happen. And even after when I was in recovery, they were back checking on me. My blood pressure, every few hours, they were there to assure me everything was OK. And then more or less, just their support, mostly.

S2: Are you sure you don't need me if you don't get out of here? I'm Stephanie Kupfer. I'm the dean of Health Sciences. I've been at Chattahoochee Tech for about 13 years now. I started out as an adjunct faculty. I'm a physical therapist and I then was the clinical coordinator and an instructor and the physical therapist assistant program, and later became the program director. And a year ago, I became the Dean Medical Systems a little bit different in that they have administrative responsibilities and clinical responsibilities. So their education is going to be focused in two different areas. One is going to be on hand with hands on skills and the other is going to be in terms of administrative tasks, some clerical. But also they have to have a good understanding of the laws that govern health care, the rules that govern health care. They need to be they will come out as health care professionals. They're the person that defines a patient's experience at their physician's office as either being a positive one or negative on their attitude and their skill level is crucial. Probably everyone has had that experience and can relate to how meaningful that role is.

S4: All right. Let's hear some nuts and bolts about the actual classes. How does this program work and what are the classes like so?

S1: Some of the classes are very difficult, which take a lot of studying and practice, and it just seems like once you master one thing, it's time to go on to the next.

S5: So the program is built into some masters, which is a year long. It is also full time. So a student has to remember they want to be full time more or less would not attend classes, and one has to be committed to be able to be here throughout the year. It's broken down into three semesters. The very first semester. We teach you a little back office where the patient talks and we deal with vital signs, patient intake. Those are the key things we talk about. The second semester we build on front office, we teach you a bit of building and insurance. We teach you how to bring in a patient with the patient. Those are things we build on to. We also teach a little more on the back of. So we have the EKG being able to draw blood. Then in your thoughts, some studies when you get an opportunity to definitely go out to the field with politics and ship and to apply everything that you have learnt and then that is an opportunity to attend afterwards.

S1: When we started the program together, there were five of us. Now we're down to four, but there's four of us and we have become so close that it's kind of like we've had this relationship with our teacher to where we can ask her questions. And with us being such a small group, we're able to work together more and kind of get through the program together, if that makes sense.

S3: Now, during the very last semester in the summer, there are two forces that they take one of those being the medical assisting seminar where essentially we're just reviewing program competencies for employment and certification for those students. So in that course, they would be knowing how to properly write a resuÃ© or putting together thank you letters, filling out a job application. They even have to do a mock interview in that course. And then, as I mentioned previously, they do a medical assisting experiential, which is the students clinical experience. So again, they're taking the application of the classroom knowledge and skills and then transitioning those over to the work environment in a doctor's office.

S4: You're going to learn a lot in this program, but it begs the question is the medical assistant program at tech a springboard to other careers? Well, it can be. If you want it to be

S3: some of our students they know coming in that, you know, medical assisting is what I want to do forever and ever, and that's great. But others sometimes have decided when they come into the program that they want to go further and they want to work more in like a hospital type setting because medical assistance typically work in an ambulatory care setting so that it's going to be your doctor's offices, urgent care physicians, immediate needs but you don't typically see too many medical assistance work primarily in the hospital. I'm not saying that they don't. You just see them more so in a doctor's office type setting. So say a student was really interested in going that route. They really want to be in the hospital. Then they would transition. And if they wanted to go into the nursing program, if that interest them, they could certainly do that. Now our medical assisting program, we offer the diploma and the degree option for our students, so our students can also get an associate of applied science degree in medical assisting.

S4: Now you might be saying to yourself, I don't necessarily want to springboard into further education. I would be extraordinarily happy with being a medical assistant. And to that I say great because there's a lot of jobs out there for you.

S5: So the beauty about it is today we know that medical assistance are on high demand, so much due to the times when they end up in an office, they have the opportunity to get hired at the end of it all. So what happens during exigency? They learn how to become a team of that office do the same thing everybody else is doing, which also will lead into them. Getting hired for

S3: the purpose of the external ship is to give the student, you know, that clinical experience or that health care related experience. Rather, we don't guarantee student that you are going to get hired to direct internship. But we do help with job placement with our students, meaning that even after they complete the program, if they are not working where they did their X turn ship, let's say that internship didn't have a position available. So there you know, the students currently still seeking employment, you know, we still help students with job placement and getting them, you know, hired on as a medical.

S4: System, you heard that correctly. If at the end of it all, you don't get offered a job, you're going to have a team of people at tech helping you to find one. Is the medical assistant program at chat tech right for you?

S5: A good candidate for this program ties into a couple of things. Definitely one. We're looking for someone who is an individual who loves interaction. You like to interact with patients. You have person who likes conversation with patients because the basis of everything is your doing or working with a patient. So it's somebody who is interested in the well-being of others.

S1: I would say that I would highly recommend this program because, like I said, with the close one to one, and it's very informative, like we go from pharmacology to ethics in the workplace. So I thought this program, you can work just about anywhere. So when we learn our skills, we learn a little bit from each different department, like we learn how to assist in in offices where we learn to system pediatric offices. So this program more or less sets you out for where you can go any doctor's office and continue to study.

S5: You have the first line of first contact with patients, making you a vital ASN, an important person in the medical field, because without a medical assistant who would not be able to have the best care that a medical assistant would do. Being a medical assistant also opens up opportunities to other areas in the medical field. So I call it also as a stepping stone into greater places enables you, helps you know how to venture farther into the medical field. The medical assisting also opens an opportunity to give you an idea because you're working close by nurses doctors. It gives you a perspective of the different environments that you can grow in. So it being a place for you to start, then the place that you never have to end because there's a lot of opportunity to grow from it.

S4: Medical assistant graduates are equipped to work alongside doctors, nurses and other medical professionals as an integral part of an industrious health care team. Does this sound like the right fit for you? Go online and find out more at Chattahoochee Tech. Got it, you!

S6: This podcast is a production of BG Ad Group. Darren Sutherland, executive producer. Jeremy Powell, creative director. Jacob Sutherland, director. Producers Jason Genter, Uralla. And Matt Golden and May copywriter. All rights reserved.