

How are medical assistants different from nurses?

- Medical Assistants work in the front office, lab, and assist the provider in an ambulatory care setting. These types of settings include doctor's offices, clinics, urgent care centers, outpatient labs and diagnostic centers. They are trained in all aspects of the office and can be hired as the office/practice manager. After graduation and certification, they can become certified in IV therapy.
- Medical Assistants focus on gathering the data and performing tests, where nursing focus lies in the assessment of the patient.
- Medical Assistants normally work 8am-5pm with no weekends, on-call, or holidays
- While some nurses are employed in offices, they must be trained for the majority of skills. Medical Assistants are trained for the skills performed in this type of setting and the reason physicians prefer to hire them.

How long does it take to finish the medical assisting program?

- Once in the program, it takes a year. However, students attend 1-2 semesters prior to complete the majority of the general education courses, which is strongly recommended.

When does the program start?

- The day program starts a new cohort every Fall semester of each year.

How often are the clinicals/practicum?

- Practicum takes place students' last term, in the Summer and are MWF from 8am-5pm

Can I choose my practicum site?

- Students submit their first, second, and third choices but ultimately the decision is made by the Program Director as other logistics must be considered for placement.

Can any courses be taken online?

- Only general education courses offered online can be taken.

What are the hours of the program?

- While program hours differ each semester/term, on average students attend 3 days the first semester, 3 days the second semester, and 5 days in the Summer term (MWF practicum/TR lecture and lab)

Are there any special requirements for the program?

- American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers (CPR) and American Heart Association First Aid are required for this program. Immunizations, background check, Passport orientation, uniforms, FIT testing (if required) and adequate transportation are also required.

What happens after graduation?

- Graduates of the medical assisting program can sit for the national certification given through the AAMA (American Association of Medical Assistants). After passing, they are then referred to as Certified Medical Assistants and use the credential CMA(AAMA).