

Medical Assisting Technology 510801 MAT **Associate in Applied Science Degree**

Available Shoals Campus
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General Information

Medical Assistants are multi-skilled health professionals specifically educated to work in ambulatory settings performing administrative and clinical duties. The profession of medical assisting directly influences the public's health and well-being, and requires mastery of a complex body of knowledge and specialized skills, formal education and practical experience that serve as standards for entry into the profession.

Program Description

The Medical Assisting curriculum covers administrative duties such as scheduling and receiving patients, preparing and maintaining medical records, performing secretarial duties, serving as a liaison between the physician and other individuals, and managing practice finances. Clinical duties include preparing the patient for examination, taking patient histories and vital signs, performing first aid and CPR, assisting the physician with examinations and treatments, performing routine laboratory procedures and diagnostic tests, preparing and administering medications as directed by the physician and performing electrocardiograms.

Graduates will be eligible to apply to sit for the for the Registered Medical Assistant Examination or the Certified Medical Assistant Examination. After successful completion of the exam, the individual will be a Registered or Certified Medical Assistant.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To prepare competent entry-level medical assistants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.
2. To prepare the student to work in a physician's office or medical clinic where they can successfully utilize administrative and clinical skills and techniques.
3. To teach the student to be professional at all times.
4. To teach the student in a manner that is applicable to "practical" work situations and encourages the development of critical thinking skills.
5. To teach the student appropriate knowledge and attitudes concerning the legal and ethical responsibilities of the profession.
6. To teach the student how to function as a valuable member of the health care team.
7. To encourage all students to sit for a nationally recognized credential such as the RMA or CMA.
8. To encourage continuing education so the student will be aware of continuous changes in the health care field.

The Medical Assisting Program offers some online and on campus courses. Laboratory/Clinical sections of all MAT classes must be completed on campus, or at the clinical site. Laboratory section assignments will be made based on space availability and may be day or evening. Students will indicate on the program application the option that they would like to choose: Medical Assisting Associate degree plan, Medical Billing & Coding Certificate, or Phlebotomy Certificate.

Approvals and Accreditations

The Northwest-Shoals Community College Medical Assisting Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158
 Clearwater, FL 33763
 727-210-2350
www.caahep.org

Medical Assisting Education Review Board
 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1575
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 1-800-228-2262
www.maerb.org

Admission Requirements

Applicants Must:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of NW-SCC.
2. Submit a NW-SCC application to the Admissions Office.
3. Submit a program application to the Administrative Assistant to Medical Assisting Technology Department in Building 110 (by announced department deadline).
4. Possess a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale
5. Must be eligible to take English 101 (English Composition I) and at least Math 116 (Technical Math).
6. Possess Essential Functions required for Medical Assisting Program (See Essential Functions).

Selection and Notification

1. The Medical Assisting Program admits each fall semester; admission for spring semester is based on availability in classes.
2. Students are selected on the basis of completion of all program requirements prior to deadline. If the number of qualified applications exceeds the number of spaces available in the Medical Assisting Program, the cumulative college GPA or the ACT or Compass score will be used to rank applicants for admission.
3. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of the outcome of each application will be mailed to the student at the address provided on the application.
4. Students selected must respond, confirming acceptance within ten (10) days of the postmarked date of the acceptance letter and declare MAT as their program major. A student who fails to respond to their acceptance letter, and or fails to declare MAT as their major, will forfeit his/her place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing must accompany the acceptance confirmation. If the student has a felony conviction or has pled guilty to a felony or has any drug or alcohol offense on the required background check completed the first semester of the program, he or she will be dismissed from the program.
5. Students selected for acceptance must attend the mandatory orientation session. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of their space in the class.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Medical Assisting Program are expected to comply with all program competencies of the Medical Assisting Program.

Required competencies:

1. Administrative competencies: perform clerical functions, perform bookkeeping procedures, process insurance claims.
2. Clinical competencies: fundamental procedures, specimen collection, diagnostic testing, patient care.
3. General competencies: professional communications, legal concepts, patient instruction, operational functions.

Upon Admission

1. Medical Assisting students are required to submit physical examination and essential function forms, including proof of Hepatitis B and other vaccinations, as well as a two part TB skin test unless student receives yearly TB skin test. The physical and vaccinations required will be the student's expense.
2. Students are required to submit proof of current CPR certification before they are allowed in clinical facilities. Only CPR courses that provide certification through the American Heart Association will be accepted.
3. Accident and liability insurance, available through the College, is required of all Medical Assisting students. The cost of the insurance will be added as a course fee.
4. Medical Assisting students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing. The cost of the drug screen will be added as a course fee to one of the medical assisting courses. The cost of the Background Screening will be the student's responsibility. Drug Screens and Background Screening will be administered as directed by Medical Assisting Department.
5. Medical Assisting students must comply with the Alabama Infected Health Care Worker Act. Code of Ala. 1975, §§22-IIA-2, 22-IIA-7, 22-IIA-13, .22-IIA-14 (g), 22-IIA-70
6. Students must present evidence of health insurance or sign a waiver.

Progression

1. Students must maintain a grade of "C" or better in all required courses.
2. Math must be completed prior to taking MAT 216, Pharmacology for the Medical Office. Students must complete a drug calculation test with a score of at least 90.
3. The student will be allowed to repeat up to two courses with a grade lower than a "C", providing their cumulative GPA does not fall below 2.5.
4. Students must be accepted by clinical agencies for all clinical experiences. Must complete 225 unpaid clinical hours during the last semester in the Medical Assisting program in facility assigned by Medical Assisting Department (hours completed Monday – Friday according to facility hours, can not guarantee night and weekend hours).
5. Students must perform a satisfactory evaluation on all clinical skills.
6. Must maintain current CPR.
7. Maintain ability to meet essential functions for medical assisting with or without reasonable accommodations.
8. Maintain an adequate level of health including freedom from chemical dependency and/or mental disorder.

9. Northwest-Shoals Community College reserves the right to remove from the program any student who is refused use of facilities by a clinical agency. A student who is refused use of a facility is considered refused by all agencies associated with the program. Therefore, the program is not required to find an alternative site.

Readmission to Program

Students who withdraw, or are dismissed from the program, must apply for re-admission. Students will be readmitted one time only.

Work Experience

College credit is not awarded for work experience in the healthcare field.

THE MEDICAL ASSISTING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Alabama Community College System endorses the American with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy, when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities.

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective medical care for patients. The applicant/student must be able to meet the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the essential functions delineated for the Medical Assisting Technology program with or without reasonable accommodations. The Medical Assisting Technology program and/or its affiliated clinical sites may identify additional essential functions. The Medical Assisting Technology program reserves the right to amend the essential functions as deemed necessary.

In order to be admitted and progress in the Medical Assisting Technology program, one must possess a functional level of ability to perform the duties required of a medical assistant. Admission or progression may be denied if a student is unable to demonstrate the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

Any reasonable accommodations made will be determined and applied to the respective Medical Assisting Technology program and may vary from reasonable accommodations made by healthcare employers.

The essential functions delineated below are necessary for the Medical Assisting program admission, progression, and graduation and for the provision of safe and effective medical care. The essential functions include but are not limited to:

- 1) Sensory Perception
 - a) Visual
 - i) Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
 - ii) Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
 - iii) Read fine print in varying levels of light
 - iv) Read for prolonged periods of time
 - v) Read cursive writing
 - vi) Read at varying distances
 - vii) Read data/information displayed on monitors/ equipment

- b) Auditory
 - i) Interpret monitoring devices
 - ii) Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope
 - iii) Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment
 - iv) Effectively hear to communicate with others
- c) Tactile
 - i) Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shapes, size, location and other physical characteristics
- d) Olfactory
 - i) Detect body odors and odors in the environment
- 2) Communication/ Interpersonal Relationships
 - a) Verbally and in writing, engage in a two-way communication and interact effectively with others, from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
 - b) Work effectively in groups
 - c) Work effectively by one's self
 - d) Discern and interpret nonverbal communication
 - e) Express one's ideas and feelings clearly
 - f) Communicate with others accurately in a timely manner
 - g) Obtain communications from a computer
- 3) Cognitive/Critical Thinking
 - a) Effectively read, write and comprehend the English language
 - b) Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical medical decisions in a variety of health care settings
 - c) Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations including mathematical computations without a calculator
 - d) Satisfactorily achieve the program objectives
- 4) Motor Function
 - a) Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction
 - b) Move, position, turn, transfer, assist with lifting or lift and carry clients without injury to clients, self or others
 - c) Maintain balance from any position
 - d) Stand on both legs
 - e) Coordinate hand/eye movements
 - f) Push/pull heavy objects without injury to client, self or others
 - g) Stand, bend, walk and/or sit for 6-12 hours in a clinical setting performing physical activities requiring energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self or others
 - h) Walk without a cane, walker or crutches
 - i) Function with hands free for medical care and transporting items
 - j) Transport self and client without the use of electrical devices
 - k) Flex, abduct and rotate all joints freely
 - l) Respond rapidly to emergency situations
 - m) Maneuver in small areas
 - n) Perform daily care functions for the client
 - o) Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe effective medical care
 - p) Calibrate/use equipment
 - q) Execute movement required to provide medical care in all health care settings
 - r) Perform CPR and physical assessment
 - s) Operate a computer
- 5) Professional Behavior
 - a) Convey caring, respect, sensitivity, tact, compassion, empathy, tolerance and a healthy attitude toward others
 - b) Demonstrate a healthy mental attitude that is age appropriate in relationship to the client
 - c) Handle multiple tasks concurrently
 - d) Perform safe, effective medical care for clients in a caring context
 - e) Understand and follow the policies and procedures of the College and clinical agencies
 - f) Understand the consequences of violating the student code of conduct
 - g) Understand that posing a direct threat to others is unacceptable and subjects one to discipline
 - h) Refrain from posing a threat to self or others
 - i) Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress inherent in providing medical care
 - j) Adapt to changing environments and situations
 - k) Remain free of chemical dependency
 - l) Report promptly to clinicals and remain as assigned at the clinical site.
 - m) Provide medical care in an appropriate time frame
 - n) Accept responsibility, accountability, and ownership of one's actions
 - o) Seek supervision/consultation in a timely manner
 - p) Examine and modify one's own behavior when it interferes with medical care or learning

Upon admission, an individual who discloses a disability can request reasonable accommodations. Individuals will be asked to provide documentation of the disability in order to assist with the provision of appropriate reasonable accommodations. The respective College will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to substantially alter the requirements or nature of the program or provide accommodations that inflict an undue burden on the respective College. In order to be admitted one must be able to perform all of the essential functions with or without accommodations. If an individual's health changes during the program of learning, so that the essential functions cannot be met with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will be withdrawn from the Medical Assisting Technology program. The Medical Assisting faculty reserves the right at any time to require additional medical examination at the student's expense in order to assist with the evaluation of the student's ability to perform the essential functions. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to: ADA Coordinator, Crystal Reed at 256-331-5249 or cingle@nwscc.edu