

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Medical Assisting**

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**Q: How long does it take to complete the Medical Assisting program?**

**A:** It generally takes one year (three semesters) to complete the certificate program. It generally takes two years to complete the associate. (Both answers are assuming no developmental coursework is required and that the student is attending full-time.)

**Q: What are the Math requirements for the program?**

**A:** Documented proficiency in Math through the 020 (beginning algebra) level.

**Q: How do I gain acceptance into the clinical portion of the program?**

**A:** Refer to [Admission Criteria](#) on the web.

**Q: When do the Medical Assisting classes start?**

**A:** You can begin taking your general education/prerequisite courses any time. The clinical phase of the program begins each fall.

**Q: How many students are accepted into the clinical phase each year?**

**A:** A maximum of 20 students.

**Q: Can I become a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) after I graduate?**

**A:** Yes, our program is CAAHEP accredited and all graduates of the certificate and associate degree programs are eligible to take the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) certification exam.

**Q: Am I required to take the certification exam to get a job as a medical assistant?**

**A:** No, but most employers prefer to hire Certified Medical Assistants (CMAs).

**Q: If I move to another state will my certification credential still be valid?**

**A:** Yes, the CMA credential is a national certification that is recognized across the country.

**Q: Can I complete the program evenings on a part-time basis?**

**A:** The certificate program can be completed part-time. After acceptance into the certificate program, a student takes two or more courses per semester. Taken part-time, the certificate program will take two years to complete.

Each MA course is sequenced annually, not offered each semester.

The associate degree clinical courses are sequenced in three semesters. General education/prerequisite coursework (28-31 credits not including any developmental courses required) will take an additional 3 (or more) semesters.

All MA courses as well as AH213 are offered only during evening hours. Some required courses offered at other campuses and sites **and on the internet!** MA 230 includes a 240-hour externship.

**Q: Anything else I need to know that I might not have realized?**

**A:** There are opportunities for MAs to do home care!