

Medical Assistant

Nature of the Profession

Medical assistants perform routine clinical and clerical tasks which help keep the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and optometrists running smoothly. Clinical duties vary according to state law and include taking medical histories and recording vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, preparing patients for examination, and assisting during the examination.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and simple medical procedures
- Good verbal and numerical abilities
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and do routine tasks
- Ability to work with people who are ill or in pain and to remain calm in emergencies
- Ability to check written materials accurately

EDUCATION

Employers prefer to hire applicants trained in specialized one- or two-year programs offered by hospitals, medical schools, vocational schools, or community colleges. Some medical assistants are trained on-the-job or through apprenticeship training.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A, P)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

For professional recognition, a person may become a registered or certified medical assistant. To be registered or certified, a person must pass an exam.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Association of Medical Assistants

Web Address: www.aama-ntl.org

Registered Medical Assistants of American Medical Technologists

Web Address: www.amtl.com