

MEDICAL ASSISTING (CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION)

Requirements Program Admissions and Other Requirements

Program Entrance Requirements:

- Complete all SPSCC admission requirements
- Successfully complete all pre-requisites prior to start of MED program courses, with a C or better
- Interview with medical assisting faculty one to two quarters prior to enrolling in MED 150 in fall quarter.

Additional Program Requirements:

- Must be 18-years of age or older, to meet the criteria for clinical externship placement
- Successful completion of a high school diploma or equivalent as part of the WA Department of Health certification application process
- Proof of up-to-date immunization record and/or immunity test to meet program and clinical site requirements
- Proof of current AHA Basic Life Support (BLS) certification for healthcare professionals, offered spring quarter
- Clearance of a National criminal, WA State Patrol, and US Sex Offender background check
- A grade of C or better required in all classes to advance to the next quarter
- Successfully complete a supervised and meaningful unpaid practicum of 198 contact hours in a healthcare setting

Certification

The South Puget Sound Community College Medical Assisting Certificate program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (<http://www.caahep.org/>) (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB).

Successful completion of the Medical Assisting program student is eligible to take the national CMA (AAMA) Certification Exam. Upon passing the exam, they will earn the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA, AAMA) credential, which is recognized nationally. The SPSCC MA certificate and degree are aligned with the Washington state RCW 18.360.060 authorized duties of a medical assistant.

Health and Safety

Prior to the beginning of their second quarter in the program, students registered in the Medical Assisting Program are required to have started the Hepatitis B vaccination series. Documentation for this requirement must be presented by the first day of class of the second quarter of the program.

Practicum

The capstone course is the student practicum (MED 159 Externship for Medical Assistants). All cognitive objectives and psychomotor and affective competencies must be completed prior to the practicum. It is highly recommended that all required coursework for the AAS degree be completed prior to the start of the practicum. The practicum allows the opportunity to use your administrative and clinical skills under the guidance of a mentor in an ambulatory healthcare setting. The practicum is a 198-hour non-remunerative arrangement.

Entry into the Medical Assisting Program does not guarantee students a job placement, nor does it guarantee a practicum placement in Thurston County. Practicum placements require successful interviews and background checks. Due to increased competition for practicum placements with other schools in Washington State, South Puget Sound Community College cannot guarantee that the practicum will be in the last quarter of the program.