



Degree Guide:

Medical Assisting Certificate

Program

[Medical Assisting \(MED\)](#)

Degree Type

Professional Technical Certificate

Program Coordinator

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Program Description

The Peninsula College Medical Assisting program provides training for employment in medical offices, clinics, and other healthcare settings. Graduates are likely to find employment in these areas, while advanced degrees may provide access to a wider range of career opportunities in healthcare. The Medical Assisting Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree includes transfer coursework in math, English, psychology, sociology, and chemistry. Courses include medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, clinical skills, medical office administration, electronic medical records, and medical billing and coding. Medical ethics, patient safety, and patient care are taught throughout the program, as well as the rules and regulations mandated by HIPAA and OSHA. Technology skills are integrated to prepare students for medical office employment, including electronic billing and coding, bookkeeping and accounting, and charting in patient records. Graduates are eligible to take their national exam in order to obtain their Washington State Department of Health Medical Assistant-Certified credentials.

The Medical Assisting Program at Peninsula College prepares medical assistants who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.

Application to the program is required. Applicants who plan to begin the program Fall Quarter must submit their application packet by 5:00 pm on June 1st of the preceding Spring Quarter. Prospective Medical Assisting students should be aware of the fact that they will have to complete a background check and provide documentation of required immunizations prior to enrolling in medical assisting courses.

Program Length: 5 Quarters
Program Code: MLAMAC45

Career Opportunities and Earnings

The Medical Assisting program provides training for employment in medical offices, clinics, and other healthcare settings. Advanced degrees may provide access to a wider range of health career opportunities. The demand for medical assistants should remain strong over the next several years.

- Medical assistant
- Medical billing

For current employment and wage estimates, please visit and search for Medical Assistant: [bls.gov/oes](https://www.bls.gov/oes).

Program Outcomes

When this program is completed, the student will be able to:



- Function professionally in a legal and ethical manner as a medical assistant.
- Use medical terminology correctly.
- Effectively communicate with other health-care team members, patients, and physicians.
- Procure and distribute both office supplies and medical supplies.
- Manage documents, both paper and electronic, in a medical office.
- Demonstrate proficiency with basic medical testing procedures.
- Display knowledge and use of techniques for asepsis, workplace safety, and risk management.
- Demonstrate knowledge and competency in electronic medical billing of multiple insurances.
- Follow laws and regulations regarding patient privacy and confidentiality.
- Demonstrate knowledge of ICD-10 coding for medical billing.
- Integrate cognitive objectives and psychomotor and affective domain competencies into daily practice.

Program Prerequisites

College-level skills in math and English are required before registering for communications and computation courses at Peninsula College. The placement test will help determine placement level if not known. Medical Assisting program prerequisites [ENGL 90](#), [INFO 101](#), and [MATH 63/64](#).

Approximate Additional Costs

- Books, uniforms, supplies and miscellaneous fees (per quarter): \$300-\$700
- MA-C credential application, national exam fees and background check fees: \$250-\$300
- Insurance and immunizations fees: \$150-\$300
- Total Additional Cost Estimate, excluding tuition: \$700-\$1300

Student Expenses

Costs are approximations only and do not include tuition or associated classroom/student fees.

Medical Assisting Program expenses, in addition to tuition, placement testing, or any other college-related fees or expenditures.

Item	Estimated Cost
Uniforms: two sets of scrub pants and tops	\$40-\$70 per set
Shoes: leather or other puncture-resistant material, athletic or medical type	\$30-\$100 per pair
White laboratory coat (optional)	\$25-\$45 each
Analogue watch with sweeping second hand	\$20-\$50
Stethoscope	\$40-\$120
Textbooks	\$150-\$300 per quarter (prices determined by publisher, not medical assisting program)
National exam application fee	\$90-\$150
WA state DOH MA-C application fee	\$115-\$150
Background check for Program	\$44-\$55
Background check for WA state, if required	Varies; check DOH website
Membership dues for national credential	Varies; check appropriate website
Fees for Continuing Education credits	Varies; check appropriate website
Immunizations	Varies based on immunizations/titers needed
Insurance	Varies by individual carrier
Health and Liability Insurance (optional, but recommended prior to Practicum)	Varies by individual carrier and type of coverage, but can range from \$35-\$150

Neither Peninsula College nor any affiliated clinical externship sites are responsible for the cost of medical care for injury or illness that occurs as a result of classroom, lab, or practicum activities.



Prerequisites

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
ENGL 90/91/92	Fundamentals of English	5
INFO 101	Research in Health and Social Sciences	2
MATH 63/64	Introduction to Algebra	5

Total Pre-Medical Assisting Credits: 12

First Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
MED 101	Introduction to Clinical Medical Assisting	5
MED 102	Medical Terminology for Medical Assistants	5
MED 150	Medical Billing and Coding I	5

Second Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
MED 110	Anatomy & Pathophysiology for Medical Assistants I	5
MED 135	Medical Office Procedures	4
MED 151	Medical Billing and Coding II	5
MED 160	Clinical Lab Seminar for Medical Assistants I	5

Third Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
MED 115	Anatomy & Pathophysiology for Medical Assistants II	5
MED 140	Medical, Ethical, Legal Communication	4
MED 161	Clinical Lab Seminar for Medical Assistants II	5

Fourth Quarter (Summer)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
AMATH 121	Applied Math for Professional & Tech Programs I	5
FA 180	First Aid for Healthcare Providers	1
MED 105	HIV/AIDS and Other Bloodborne Pathogens for Medical Assistants.	1
MED 170	Principles of Pharmacology for Medical Assistants	5



Fifth Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
MED 165	Clinical Practicum for Medical Assistants	6
MED 200	Medical Assisting Capstone	3
MED 201	Introduction to Patient Advocacy	5

Your personal educational plan will vary based on many factors including:

- The quarter you begin
- How many classes/credits you plan to take in each quarter
- Your math and English placement; Learn more about placement options by visiting the [Assessment and Placement website](#).
- If you start in our [Transitional Studies](#) program

Total Credits **74**