

Medical Assistant



What do they do?

Medical Assistants help physicians, chiropractors and other health professionals. They take patient histories and measure vital signs. In some offices they may help physicians with exams, give injections and prepare blood for lab tests or help with clerical tasks.

The exact work of Medical Assistant will vary depending on where they work.

Where do they work?

Over half of all Medical Assistants work in a physician's private practice, while others might work at a hospital or larger healthcare facility.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for a Medical Assistant is \$33,610.

Education:

Education requirements for Medical Assistants vary by state. Formal training is not required in Wisconsin. However, completing an accredited education program is required for certification which is preferred by most employers.

Medical Assistant training in Madison:

Madison Area Technical College: www.madisoncollege.edu

Globe University: www.globeuniversity.edu

High School students interested in becoming a Medical Assistant should consider taking classes in biology, chemistry and anatomy.

Accreditation:

Education programs for CMA training are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, or by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

www.caahep.org

www.abhes.org



Professional Associations:

Medical Assistants can join the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Medical Assistants.

www.wsma.net



Certification:

There are four types of certification for Medical Assistants:

Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

From the American Association of Medical Assistants: www.aama-ntl.org



Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)

From the American Medical Technologists: www.americanmedtech.org



National Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA)

From the National Center for Competency Training: www.ncctinc.com



Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)

From the National Health Career Association: www.nhanow.com



Please note: completion of an accredited medical assisting program is required for the CMA certification. The other three require no formal education.

Potential for Advancement:

Aside from the various certifications listed above, a Medical Assistant could choose to continue their education into:

- Nursing or Physician's Assistant
- Medical Coding
- Allied Health Management or Healthcare Administration

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Medical Assistants is expected to grow 29 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018-17 Edition*, Medical Assistants, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-assistants.htm>

