CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Health Sciences

Program Planning Guide

Pre-Medical Assisting Program (A55280MA)

The pre-medical assisting program builds the academic and professional foundation students need to succeed in a Medical Assisting diploma or associate degree program and in their future careers as Medical Assistants. It develops the essential knowledge, skills, and habits medical assistants use every day to support safe, efficient, and patient-centered care in clinical settings. Through courses in anatomy and physiology and psychology, students gain a strong understanding of how the human body functions and how biological, psychological, and behavioral factors influence health and illness. These courses help students begin to think like healthcare professionals by applying scientific knowledge, observation, and sound judgment in patient care environments.

Communication, critical thinking, and professional readiness are central components of the program. Courses focused on writing, communication, humanities, and math strengthen students' ability to write clearly, communicate effectively with patients and healthcare teams, analyze information, and solve practical problems commonly encountered in healthcare settings. Additional coursework supports academic success and career exploration by helping students develop strong study habits, time management skills, and professional application materials, while clarifying healthcare career pathways. Together, the pre-medical assisting courses prepare students to enter a Medical Assisting program with confidence and to build the core competencies required for success on the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam, including patient care, communication, professionalism, safety, and foundational clinical knowledge.

The pre-Medical Assisting program is designed as a preparation track and does not lead to a degree. Students who decide not to pursue Medical Assisting will need to work with their Education Navigator to transition into a different degree pathway.

Pre-Medical Assisting Program General Education Classes:

Required Program Courses		Class	Lab	Credits	Notes:
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	1	Seated or online
BIO 163	Basic Anat & Physiology	4	2	5	Seated
ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3	0	3	Seated or online
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	3	Seated or online
Optional Elective	Medical Math (see note below)	3	0	3	Online (LN1 or LN2 only)
Optional Elective	English/Communications	3	3	3	Seated or online
Optional Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	3	3	Seated or online

A minimum grade of C must be earned in all classes for the medical assisting program.

The following electives are not required for entry into the program, but count towards the Medical Assisting degree:

English/Communications Elective Options: Select One: **COM 110***, COM 120, COM 231, ENG 112, ENG 114

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Humanities/Fine Arts Elective Options: Select One: ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 231, ENG 232, ENG 241, ENG 242, HUM 110, **HUM 115***, HUM 120, HUM 122, HUM 150, MUS 110, MUS 112, PHI 240, REL 211, REL 212

*Recommended for MED students

Pre-Medical Assisting Suggested Course Schedule:

		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
BIO 163	Basic Anat & Physiology	4	2	0	5	Seated
ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
	Total Semester Hours	**7**	**4**	**0**	**9**	
2nd Semester (spring)						
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
MAT 110	Medical Math (Math Measurement & Literacy)	2	2	0	3	Online (LN1 or LN2 only)
Elective	English/Communications	3	3	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	3	0	3	Seated or online
	Total Semester Hours	**11**	**8**	**0**	**12**	

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Planning for Your Future as a Medical Assistant:

Earning a bachelor's degree builds on the clinical knowledge and hands-on experience you gain as a Medical Assistant and prepares you for expanded roles within today's healthcare system. Bachelor's programs related to medical assisting, such as health sciences, healthcare management, public health, or allied health leadership, focus on advanced concepts in healthcare delivery, leadership, population health, ethics, research, and healthcare systems. These programs strengthen your ability to think critically, analyze healthcare data, understand policy and compliance, and recognize how social, cultural, and behavioral factors influence patient outcomes.

At the bachelor's level, you will develop leadership and problem-solving skills that allow you to move beyond task-based care and contribute to quality improvement, patient education, care coordination, and organizational effectiveness. You will also gain a broader understanding of how healthcare teams function and how medical assistants support efficiency, safety, and patient satisfaction across clinical settings. A bachelor's degree can open the door to higher-paying positions, supervisory and administrative roles, education and training positions, and graduate study in healthcare-related fields. Most importantly, it prepares you to take on greater responsibility, adapt to a rapidly changing healthcare environment, and make a meaningful impact on both patient care and the healthcare system as a whole.

After completing the required courses for admission to the medical assisting program, students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree in the future may take the following recommended courses while waiting to begin the medical assisting program or while enrolled in the program. These courses are commonly transferable to universities and may apply toward bachelor's degree requirements, depending on the receiving institution. Please see the college catalog for course descriptions.

Recommended Courses **(Take one class from each row)**		**Class**	**Lab**	**Credits**	**Notes:**
HIS 131 HIS 132	American History I American History II	3	0	3	Seated or online
GEL 111	Geology	3	2	4	Online
HEA 110	Personal Health/Wellness	3	0	3	Seated or online
MAT 152 MAT 171	Statistical Methods I Precalculus Algebra	3	2	4	Seated or online
ECO 251	Prin of Microeconomics	3	0	3	Seated or online
PSY 241 PSY 281 SOC 210	Social Psychology Abnormal Psychology Introduction to Sociology	3	0	3	Online
SPA 111	Elementary Spanish I (see note below)	3	0	3	Seated or online
SPA 112	Elementary Spanish II	3	0	3	Seated or online
SPA 211	Intermediate Spanish I	3	0	3	Seated or online
SPA 212	Intermediate Spanish II	3	0	3	Seated or online

A minimum grade of C must be earned in all classes that transfer to a university for a bachelor's degree.

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For students interested in continuing their education and expanding career opportunities, bachelor's degree pathways are available that build on the knowledge and skills gained in medical assisting.

Appalachian State University - Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management
The Appalachian State University Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management is a strong next step for Medical Assisting students who want to expand their career opportunities beyond clinical roles. The program builds on existing healthcare knowledge and prepares graduates for leadership, supervisory, and administrative positions through coursework in healthcare systems, management, finance, quality improvement, and policy. Offered in a flexible, distance-based format, it is well-suited for working medical assistants and transfer students.

East Carolina University - Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management
The East Carolina University Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management is a strong option for Medical Assistants who want to move beyond direct patient care while remaining in the healthcare field. The program builds on clinical and operational experience and focuses on healthcare leadership, management, systems, and policy. Offered as an online degree-completion program, it allows working Medical Assistants to continue working while preparing for administrative, supervisory, and care coordination roles.

North Carolina Wesleyan College - Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration
The North Carolina Wesleyan University Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration is a practical pathway for Medical Assistants who want to move into leadership or administrative roles while remaining in healthcare. The program builds on existing clinical experience and focuses on healthcare management, policy, finance, and quality improvement. Designed for working adults, it offers flexible learning options that support career advancement beyond direct patient care.

Foreign Language Requirement

Spanish is not required for all bachelor's programs, but it is strongly recommended for pre-health students because it significantly improves communication with a large and growing Spanish-speaking patient population. Being able to speak Spanish builds trust, reduces misunderstandings, and helps prevent errors in patient care. Employers in healthcare provide stipends to bilingual employees, making Spanish a powerful advantage for anyone preparing for a health science career. The following Spanish courses are available for pre-health students, but are not always part of a transfer agreement: SPA 111, SPA 112, SPA 211, SPA 212

All universities will accept general education credit, although the number of credits that transfer may vary by institution. If you are unsure which university you plan to attend, a safe option is to choose courses identified as part of the Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC), which are noted at the end of the course description.

Students who have questions about the pre-Medical Assisting program should contact their Education Navigator.