



Medical Assistant Program – Certificate I Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Is there a pre-entrance exam requirement?

Yes. A pre-entrance exam is required for applicants who meet the initial eligibility criteria as listed on the program's website.

Do I need to submit a background check, immunization records, or any other documentation with my application?

No. Only transcripts are required at the time of application. Additional documents (e.g., background checks, immunizations) will be required after acceptance into the program.

How many students are accepted each year?

The program currently accepts up to a total of 24 students each fall semester.

Do I have to complete pre-requisite courses?

Yes, pre-requisite courses are required, however, for a limited time, they will be waived for admission and must be completed before graduating from the program.

I am currently enrolled in the MAA continuing education program. Can I apply?

Yes. Students in the MAA program can apply to the program. However, students must complete the MAA first, pass the certification exam and request course credit be applied towards the clinical certificate program once accepted.

What is the difference between the Certificate 1 and the Associate of Applied Science degree?

The one-year certificate program provides training in administrative (front office) skills and introduces students to clinical (back office) skills. College readiness is not required.

The Associate of Applied Science degree includes advanced clinical training (e.g. phlebotomy and EKG) and prepares students for the national certification exam. All A.A.S. courses apply toward the Bachelor of Organizational Leadership (BASORGL) degree at Laredo College. Students must be college-ready to complete general education requirements (core classes).

What if I started the certificate program but wanted to change to an associate degree?

Notify the program director by the beginning of the second semester (January). This allows time to develop a plan to meet college-readiness requirements and complete core courses before graduation.

What is the class schedule in the MA program like?

Courses are delivered in person at the South Campus and at assigned clinical sites.

- Fall semester: morning and afternoon classes and clinical rotation (off-site)
- Spring semester: morning and afternoon classes and clinical rotation

Where will I complete my clinical education experiences?

Clinical rotations are completed at local clinics and private practices in Laredo and Zapata.

Estimated travel costs:

Local sites: approximately \$250

Out-of-town sites: approximately \$350

Students are responsible for all travel expenses.