



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

### **Is there a pre-entrance exam requirement?**

No. A pre-entrance exam is not required to apply to the MA program.

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

No. Only copies of transcripts are submitted with the MA application. All other documents are submitted once the student has been accepted to the MA program.

### **How many students are accepted each year?**

The MA program currently accepts 20 students each Fall.

### **I am an MAA continuing education student; when do I complete the pre-requisites?**

MAA students transitioning to the clinical certificate MA program complete the two prerequisite courses in the first 8-weeks of the first semester and continue through May.

### **I am an MAA continuing education student and have already completed the prerequisites. Which courses do I take in the first 8 weeks?**

None. MAA students who have already completed the prerequisite courses start the program in the second 8 weeks of the course and continue through May.

### **What is the difference between the certificate 1 and the associate degree?**

The one-year certificate program cross-trains students in administrative skills (front office), introduces students to clinical skills (or back office), and does not require students to be college-ready.

The associate of applied science trains students in advanced clinical skills such as phlebotomy and EKG and prepares them for the national certification exam. Students on this track must be college-ready to complete the core requirements for the degree.

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

Simply inform the program director by February that you plan to continue the associate degree pathway and guide you towards becoming college-ready to complete your core curriculum in time.

### **What is the class schedule in the MA program like?**

Courses are taught in person at the South Campus or off-site at 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 be expected to complete clinical education experiences?**

Clinical experiences are completed at local clinics and private practices as a requirement to graduate from the MA certificate and Associate degree programs. Clinicals can be completed in Laredo and Zapata. The estimated cost for travel expenses is approximately \$250 locally and \$350 for out-of-town clinical sites. These additional costs are the responsibility of the student.