



Medical Assistant – Western Governors University

Western Governors University (WGU) was established in 1997 by nineteen U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online. WGU, a nonprofit, now serves more than 120,000 students nationwide and has more than 186,000 graduates in all fifty states. Driving innovation as the nation's leading competency-based university, WGU has been recognized by the White House, state leaders, employers, and students as a model that works in postsecondary education.

In just twenty-one years, the university has become a leading influence in changing the lives of individuals and families, and preparing the workforce needed in today's rapidly evolving economy. The WGU College of Health Professions (CHP) has over 29,000 enrolled students with all national and state accreditations and reviews to affirm quality. With a continued annual growth rate that exceeds 21%, the college has a demonstrated track record of success in impact and spread.

Program Overview

Medical Assistants (MAs) are an important member of a patient-centered team. They complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals and other health care facilities. Their duties vary with the location, specialty and size of the practice. They spend time with patients to ensure they understand the doctor's instructions, draw and prepare samples for testing, administer injections, remove sutures, check vital signs, and in some practices, take X-rays. The ideal MA candidate is empathetic, a strong listener and oral communicator, calm under stress, detailed and organized. Most MAs work full-time days although some work evenings, nights and weekends. The work environment is typically fast-paced, highly professional, compassionate and team oriented.

Program Highlights

- WGU offers hybrid courses. Coursework is offered online and will be completed in 10-11 months.
- Bootcamps are offered in person as a two day – 8 hours each day - hands-on lab experience in which students will prove competency on content that was completed the previous online sections. Students will be required to pass the bootcamp prior to moving to the next section online content. There are 3 bootcamps offered on Saturdays and Sundays, one every ten weeks throughout the program.
- Students are expected to spend ~25-30 hours/week on classroom material and review. Bootcamp hours are in addition.
- Students begin with Social Emotional Learning, a synchronous learning experience that takes approximately one month to complete across five live sessions. Students also complete Medical Terminology before moving into the core Medical Assistant curriculum.



Number of Competency Units Earned

15 units towards the Bachelor of Science Health Information Management Certificate

12 units towards the Bachelor of Science in Health Services Coordination

WGU Admission Requirements

- 18 years of age or older
- High school diploma or GED
- Ability to work in the US
- Reside in California
- Ability to lift and move a minimum of 20 pounds
- Willingness to work with bodily fluids such as urine or blood
- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Willing to commit 5-6 hours per day (estimated at 25-30 hours per week) of study time
- Computer and internet proficiency with home access to consistent, reliable high-speed internet and a reliable, working computer or laptop
- English fluency
- Reliable transportation to attend lab hours and externship
- Students must have health insurance
- Students will need a physical exam prior to bootcamps
- Up to date immunizations
- CPR certification – required prior to bootcamps
- Students are required to join the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) course live – there are six sessions that are two hours long with evening and weekend options
- Students are required to take and pass WGU’s entrance assessment
- Negative drug screen and cleared background check – no misdemeanor or felony convictions (These assessments are administered prior to acceptance to the program.)
- Transportation to and from bootcamps

Foreign Students

WGU does not accept foreign transcripts.

Enrollment Process

After completing the Futuro Health enrollment process, students will:

- Complete an online enrollment process with WGU, which includes signing into a free student office 365 account and completing the student application.
- In the week before classes begin, students will participate in an online orientation.

Tuition/Fees



Futuro Health is prepaying the cost of tuition, student supports, textbooks, course materials and exam costs for all students in 2020. However, the following fees do apply:

- Futuro Health Registration Fee: \$100 for the Medical Assistant Program
- Membership for education and training: \$20 per month

Computer/Skill Requirements

All students will need regular, home access to a computer and high-speed internet. Your computer will need at least a 2GHz processor or faster, 4 GB RAM or more, built-in or external speakers, USB 2.0 port or adaptor, a webcam supported operating system, Windows 7 or higher, or MacOS Sierra 10.12 or higher.

Externship

Every student is required to complete an externship as part of their Medical Assistant training. Externships provide students with an opportunity to work closely with experienced professionals in their chosen field. Under the supervision of a senior Medical Assistant, they will provide direct patient care, perform treatments, educate patients and assist the doctor with procedures, allowing them to practice and develop the skills necessary to work in the healthcare industry.

An externship allows students to apply what they learned in their Medical Assistant Program in real time. Externships typically occur in a clinic, hospital, or primary care office selected by their education provider.

The Medical Assistant Program externship is typically a 160+-hour commitment and is usually completed within one month. Because the externship is during the times when healthcare facilities are open and seeing patients, this is a full-time commitment (Monday-Friday, sometimes Saturday) for one month --which means that it is very important that students discuss and pre-arrange with their employer ahead of time so that they can take the time off to do their externship.

Mentoring & Tutoring Available

- WGU has success coaches to guide students along their educational journey.
- Students are encouraged to seek academic assistance through their instructor and/or the online education director.
- WGU provides advising to students on issues involving education and academics.

Grading Information

- Students need to receive a C+ (75%) grade or higher to pass.

Immunization Requirements

- MMR Titer (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) - titer must be positive (+) and be completed within the past 5 years.



- Tetanus Diphtheria and a-cellular Pertussis (Tdap) - must have within the past 10 years.
- Varicella Titer – titer must be positive (+) and be completed within the past 5 years.
- Influenza Vaccine – a seasonal flue vaccination is required on an annual basis. If declining, a declination form must be completed and filed.
- Tuberculosis (PPD) - must be updated every year while at WGU with acceptable TB testing including either a, b, or c:
 - You must submit a 2-Step PPD, with the 2nd PPD being within 7-10 days from the first PPD. If both PPDs are negative, you must submit an annual PPD thereafter.
 - QuantiFERON Gold blood TB test
 - If you have a Positive PPD: You must supply printed proof of the date you tested positive, a Chest X-Ray (every two years) AND a TB Screening Report (Annually-see form below) from your provider. This report must state that you, the patient, are 'negative' for signs and symptoms of tuberculosis. This report must be submitted annually, with the newest within 12 months of admission to WGU.
- Hepatitis B Titer – titer must be positive (+) and be completed within the past 5 years.

Important Contacts

Admissions and advising contact: macap@wgu.edu

Dawn Helzer, Program Director, Dawn.Helzer@wgu.edu

Lab Address

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