

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MEDICAL ASSISTANT
STUDENT POLICIES

DESCRIPTION of the PROFESSION

Medical assistants are multiskilled health professionals specifically educated to work in a variety of healthcare settings performing administrative and clinical duties. The practice of medical assisting directly influences the public's health and well-being and requires mastery of a complex body of knowledge and specialized skills requiring both formal education and practical experience that serve as standards for entry into the profession.

The Northwood Tech Medical Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), on recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). The Medical Assistant Program's minimum expectations is to prepare medical assistants who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession. This means that the curriculum is carefully regulated to assure that it includes essential components and meets standards mandated by this organization. Accreditation allows the graduates of our medical assistant program to complete the national certification examination administered by the American Association of Medical Assistants. When graduates successfully complete this examination, they are known as Certified Medical Assistants and may use the title CMA (AAMA).

The Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Medical Assistant Program began at New Richmond in 1972 and was accredited by CAAHEP in 1975. This program expanded to the Rice Lake campus in January 2009. The program at the Superior campus began in 1999 and was accredited by CAAHEP in 2001. The program expanded to the Ashland campus in August 2012. In August 2021, the college went through a rebranding and name change process. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College was renamed Northwood Technical College. The Northwood Tech MA program has hundreds of graduates employed in the health care field and has a reputation for quality graduates in the industry.

Northwood Tech is also involved in the delivery of continuing education for Certified Medical Assistants to maintain currency of their CMA (AAMA) credential.

CAAHEP can be contacted at:

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PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the Medical Assistant Program is to prepare competent entry-level medical assistants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. Programs adopting educational goals beyond entry-level competence must clearly delineate this intent and provide evidence that all students have achieved the basic competencies prior to entry into the field.