

Cerritos College CTE Program Report, Spring 2020

Program: Medical Assisting

Division: Health Occupations

Attached is a copy of the Annual Unit Plan for: [Click here to enter text.](#)

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1. **Objectives: What are the objectives of the program?** To what extent are these objectives being achieved? How satisfied are students with their preparation for employment? How satisfied are employers with the preparation they receive in this program? Does this program contribute to programs in other fields? What plans are in place for improving the program?

The objectives of the Medical Assisting program is to prepare multiskilled assistants to efficiently work under the supervision of the health care provider, be an agent for the health care provider, and a consumer advocate providing professional and technical support in a professional, empathetic and caring manner in ambulatory care settings performing administrative and clinical duties.

The Cerritos College Medical Assisting program offers a Certificate of Completion or an AA degree in Medical Assisting. The curriculum reflects the needs of the medical community and includes both front and back office assisting skills. Additionally, certificates in electronic health records, health care billing, coding and health insurance are part of the curriculum. Further, the Medical Assisting Program provides students with 180 hour externship opportunity in numerous medical facilities in the Cerritos College community.

Based on Advisory Committee members feedback and employer evaluations, employers are extremely satisfied with the Cerritos College Medical Assisting graduates. The program continues to maintain a positive reputation within the surrounding community.

Currently the program is operating with an acting department chair, and part-time faculty only. The Medical Assisting Program deserves a full-time faculty member who can chair the department and provide the department the necessary commitment to move the department forward. Further, prior to the loss of the full-time faculty the department was ready to offer a stand-alone phlebotomy component to the MA curriculum. The development of this course can move forward with a full-time faculty hire.

2. **Market Data Need: How strong is the demand for graduates of the program?** How has demand changed in the past two years and what is the outlook for the next five years. How many jobs are available regionally in this field? Are other similar programs offered in this region and if so, what is their impact on the job market? How is the job market impacting your program?

As per the US Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of medical assistants is projected to grow 23 percent through 2028. Although this number shows a slight decrease since 2012 the growth is much faster than the average for all other health occupations. The growth of the aging baby-boom population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As a result, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administrative and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients. An increasing number of group practices, clinics and other healthcare facilities will also need support workers, particularly medical assistants, to complete both administrative and clinical duties. Additionally, it is predicted that those medical assistants who have certification and have familiarity with electronic health records will have better job prospects. Further, federal health legislation will expand the number of patients who have access to health insurance, increasing patient access to medical care. California has the highest employment level for medical assistants of all the states with a total of 92,960 currently employed, earning a mean wage of \$18.39 per hour and an annual mean wage of \$38,250.

Industries with Highest Levels of Employment of Medical Assisting

Industry	Employment	Percent of Industry Employment	Hourly Mean Wage	Annual Mean Wage
Office of Physicians	389,160	15.02	\$16.50	\$34,320
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	97,600	1.76	\$17.34	\$36,070
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	57,680	6.34	\$15.22	\$31,650
Outpatient Care Centers	57,240	6.21	\$17.95	\$37,340
Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Assisted Living Facilities	13,050	1.4	\$13.81	\$28,720

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3. **Enrollment/Retention/Placement: What are the trends in student enrollment, success and completion, and placement?** Is there an increase or decline in the last five years? What are the barriers to success and completion? What are placement rates with local employers? What do these data mean for your program?

Enrollment counts have generally increased over the last 5 years with only a slight decline for the last posted data collection year (2018-2019), from 822 for 2017-2018 to 805 for 2018-2019

Total Enrollment Counts for Medical Assisting Program

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
751	742	779	822	805

Section counts for the Medical Assisting Program have increased over the last 5 years as well, with only a slight decline during the 2018-2019 year.

Total Section Counts for Medical Assisting Program

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
19	19	24	38	31

Success rates and completion rates have remained fairly consistent over the last 5 years.

Total Success Rates for the Medical Assisting Program

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
64%	73.6%	67.7%	69%	71.7%

Total Completion Rates for the Medical Assisting Program

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
79.6%	82.6%	79.2%	82.1%	85.5%

With the numerous externship opportunities, students are in a unique position to be hired in the facility after the externship is completed. Further, medical assisting jobs are abundant and the Cerritos College Medical Assisting graduates find professional employment quickly.

Although the Success and Completion rates are above average, the program is operating with only an acting chair and part-time faculty. It could be assumed the consistency for the students is compromised at best. With a dedicated full-time faculty and chair the program should be able to improve in all data points.