



## Comparing Health Science Careers (NAC) and Medical Careers (MA)

<b>Health Science Careers (Nursing Assistant Certified)</b>	<b>Medical Careers (Medical Assisting)</b>
<b>Certificate:</b> (Nursing Assistant Certified) NAC certificate	<b>Certificate:</b> Leads to (Medical Assistant) MA certificate requiring 4 more quarters of post high school study
<b>High school credits:</b> 3 CTE (incl. 0.5 Health, 1.0 Lab Science)	<b>High school credits:</b> 3 CTE (incl. 0.5 Health, 1.0 Lab Science)
<b>College credits:</b> Up to 24 college credits	<b>College credits:</b> Up to 15 college credits
<p>Preparing students to become <b>Nursing Assistants</b>, who work in nursing homes or hospitals under supervision of a nurse and provide basic patient care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer patients' call signals.</li> <li>• Turn and reposition bedridden patients.</li> <li>• Observe patients' conditions, measure and record food and liquid intake and output, measure and record vital signs, and report changes to professional staff.</li> <li>• Feed patients who are unable to feed themselves.</li> <li>• Provide patients with help walking, exercising, and moving in/out of bed.</li> <li>• Provide patient care by supplying/emptying bed pans, applying dressings, supervising exercise routines.</li> <li>• Bathe, groom, shave, dress, or drape patients to prepare them for surgery, treatment, or examination.</li> <li>• Transport patients to treatment units, using a wheelchair or stretcher.</li> <li>• Clean rooms and change linens.</li> <li>• Collect specimens such as urine, feces, or sputum.</li> </ul> <p>Other reported job titles: Certified Nurses Aide, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Patient Care Assistant (PCA), Patient Care Technician (PCT), Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Attendant, Hospital Assistant</p>	<p>Preparing students to become <b>Medical Assistants</b>, who work in doctor's office or medical centers under supervision of a doctor and perform clinical and administrative duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare treatment rooms for patient examinations, keeping the rooms neat and clean.</li> <li>• Show patients to examination rooms and prepare them for the physician.</li> <li>• Interview patients to obtain medical information and measure vital signs, weight, and height.</li> <li>• Record patients' medical history, vital statistics and information such as test results.</li> <li>• Help physicians examine and treat patients, handing them instruments and materials or performing tasks such as giving injections or removing sutures.</li> <li>• Explain treatment procedures, medications, diets and physicians' instructions to patients.</li> <li>• Collect blood, tissue or other laboratory specimens, log the specimens, and prepare them for testing.</li> <li>• Clean and sterilize instruments and dispose of contaminated supplies.</li> <li>• Schedule appointments, maintain medical records, and perform billing, and coding for insurance purposes.</li> <li>• Prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician.</li> <li>• Authorize drug refills and provide prescription information to pharmacies.</li> </ul>
<b>Employment outlook:</b> Increasing by 21%	<b>Employment outlook:</b> Increasing by 23%
<b>*Starting pay range:</b> \$17-20/hour	<b>*Starting pay range:</b> \$19-22/hour
The WANIC Health Science Careers (Nursing) and Medical Careers programs are both excellent foundational classes for students interested in pursuing a career in any medical field.	

\*Salary.com

**Contact WANIC for more information**

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