

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

Health Science Careers (Nursing Assistant Certified)	Medical Careers (Medical Assisting)
Certificate: (Nursing Assistant Certified) NAC Certificate	Certificate: Leads to (Medical Assistant) MA certificate, requiring 4 more quarters of study
High school credits: 3 Occ. Ed. (incl. 05. Health, 1.0 Lab Science)	High school credits: 3 Occ. Ed. (incl. 05. Health, 1.0 Lab Science)
College credits: Up to 21 college credits	Colle credits: Up to 15 college credits
<p>Preparing students to become Nursing Assistants, who work in nursing homes or hospitals under supervision of a nurse and provide basic patient care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer patients' call signals. • Turn and reposition bedridden patients. • Observe patients' conditions, measure and record food and liquid intake and output, measure and record vital signs, and report changes to professional staff. • Feed patients who are unable to feed themselves. • Provide patients with help walking, exercising, and moving in/out of bed. • Provide patient care by supplying/emptying bed pans, applying dressings, supervising exercise routines. • Bathe, groom, shave, dress, or drape patients to prepare them for surgery, treatment, or examination. • Transport patients to treatment units, using a wheelchair or stretcher. • Clean rooms and change linens. • Collect specimens such as urine, feces, or sputum. <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 Medical Assistants, 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"> • Prepare treatment rooms for patient examinations, keeping the rooms neat and clean. • Show patients to examination rooms and prepare them for the physician. • Interview patients to obtain medical information and measure vital signs, weight, and height. • Record patients' medical history, vital statistics and information such as test results. • Help physicians examine and treat patients, handing them instruments and materials or performing tasks such as giving injections or removing sutures. • Explain treatment procedures, medications, diets and physicians' instructions to patients. • Collect blood, tissue or other laboratory specimens, log the specimens, and prepare them for testing. • Clean and sterilize instruments and dispose of contaminated supplies. • Schedule appointments, maintain medical records, and perform billing, and coding for insurance purposes. • Prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician. • Authorize drug refills and provide prescription information to pharmacies.
Employment outlook: Increasing by 21%	Employment outlook: Increasing by 26%
Starting pay range: \$10.86 to \$18.35/hour	Starting pay range: \$17.50 to \$22/hour
Career Advancement: Medication Technician, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN)	Career Advancement: Medical Office Manager, Physician's Assistant, Medical Doctor, Registered Nurse (RN)

Contact WANIC for more information

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