

# Medical Assistant Pathway Program Frequently Asked Questions

## **I have questions about a program or the enrollment process. Who do I contact?**

If you have questions about a program or the enrollment process, please visit [theedfund.org/ma-pathway](http://theedfund.org/ma-pathway).

## **What is the cost to students?**

The Medical Assistant Pathway Program is sponsored by The Education Fund and is free of charge to you.

## **Is there an education and/or age requirement to apply to the Medical Assistant Pathway Program?**

Applicants must be 18 years or older with a high school diploma or GED by summer 2020, reside in California and be eligible to work in the United States.

## **How long is the Medical Assistant Pathway Program?**

The coursework portion of the Medical Assistant Pathway Program is designed to be completed in 10 months, followed by the clinical experience which will take 5 additional weeks.

## **Are Medical Assistant classes offered online or in-person?**

The coursework portion of the Medical Assistant Pathway Program is entirely online, however the lab and the clinical portions must be completed in person.

## **Am I required to complete any courses prior to applying for the Medical Assistant Pathway Program?**

Medical Assistant students are required to complete two courses — an introduction to Anatomy and Physiology for healthcare and Medical Terminology. Anatomy and Physiology must have been taken at an accredited college with a (C) grade or better within the last 5 years. Medical Terminology must have been taken any time in the past, from any institution, with a (C) grade or better. Candidates will be asked to provide a transcript within the application.

The Education Fund also provides English Readiness courses designed to prepare students for careers in allied health. Depending on your language skills, these courses may be helpful to you. While completing your application, if you indicated that English is not the primary language spoken in your home, you will be asked to complete a short set of questions to determine your eligibility for English Readiness.

## **What if I haven't taken the prerequisite courses?**

You will work with your Education Fund Navigator to complete your Jump Start Courses before in the Medical Assistant Pathway Program.

## **What is the career progression for a Medical Assistant?**

A career as a Medical Assistant is often a stepping-stone to other healthcare careers. With additional coursework, Certified Medical Assistants can move up the ladder to become a Care Coordinator, Licensed Vocational Nurse or Registered Nurse. If you prefer the administrative side of healthcare, you may seek to advance your career as an Office Manager.

## **What are the certificate exam requirements for the Medical Assistant Pathway Program?**

After successfully completing a Medical Assistant Pathway Program, students are eligible to take the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) Certification Exam offered through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA). The CMA (AAMA) credential offers proof to employers that a Medical Assistant has achieved the highest standards of education and credentialing in the field.

## **Will I need a computer and internet access to take the program?**

Yes, all students will need regular 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.

## **How many hours a week will I need to study?**

To be most successful in the Medical Assistant Pathway Program, we recommend 3+ hours per day of study.

## **Will I need to pass a drug test?**

You should expect that our educational partners will require you to pass a drug test before starting school or sometime during your educational journey, and that all employers will require you to pass a drug test before starting work.

## **Will I have support during the program?**

Your Education Fund Navigator will be available to guide you along your educational journey, including helping you select your career pathway.

## **What is the role of SEIU-UHW?**

Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW) is doing outreach to scout and recruit candidates for Futuro Health which is your friends and family.