

Qualifying as a Medical Assistant-Certified in Washington

As of July 2013, Washington (WA) state law requires medical assistants to meet specified education and testing requirements to work in the state as a “Medical Assistant-Certified” (MA-C). The NCCT National Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA) examination meets the state testing requirement for this role.

Candidates from WA who want to earn licensure as an MA-C should make sure they meet one of the state required education and training paths (below) **prior to application to NCCT for testing.**

Education and Training Paths

Washington state law mandates that candidates for the Medical Assistant-Certified designation meet one of the following education/training paths:

Completion of a post-secondary school or college program accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) or the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP); or

Completion of a post-secondary program in a school or college accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, which includes a minimum of 720 clock hours of training in medical assisting skills, including a clinical externship of no less than 160 hours; or

Completion of a registered apprenticeship program administered by a department of the state of Washington that the Secretary has determined to be substantially equivalent to the MA-C standards of this state; or

The Secretary may also approve an applicant who submits documentation of completion of post-secondary education with a minimum of 720 clock hours of training in medical assisting skills. The documentation must include proof of training in all of the duties identified in [RCW.18.360.050 \(1\)](#) and a clinical externship of no less than 160 hours.

Per WAC 246-827-0130 U.S. Armed Forces Equivalency

“An Applicant with relevant military training or experience satisfies the training or experience requirements unless the secretary determines that the military training or experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this state.” NCCT suggests that candidates who wish to test via this route contact the state directly to ensure the state will approve their training prior to application with NCCT.

For specific questions about this state law:

medical.assistants@doh.wa.gov

For a copy of the state of Washington MA-C application form:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/651015.pdf>