

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.

Education and Training Paths

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

Successful completion of one of the following medical assistant training programs:

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

Post-secondary school or college accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization approved through 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

A registered apprenticeship program administered by a department of the state of Washington unless the secretary determines that the apprenticeship program training or experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this state. The apprenticeship program shall ensure a participant who successfully completes the program is eligible to take one or more examinations identified in WAC 246-827-0200(2); or

The Secretary may also approve an applicant who submits documentation that he or she completed 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.

The Secretary may approve an applicant who submits documentation that they completed a career and technical education program approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction 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.

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. Provide official transcripts showing proof of your education, training, and experience.

Examination:

Successfully pass a medical assistant certification examination, approved by the Secretary, within the preceding five years of submitting an initial application or currently hold a national medical assistant certification with a national examining organization approved by the Secretary. A medical assistant certification examination approved by the Secretary means an examination that:

- Is offered by a medical assistant program that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and
- Covers the clinical and administrative duties under RCW 18.360.050(1).

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

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