Medical Assisting (Columbia, Montgomery, and Savannah)

Degree Type
Associate of Science (AS)

Admission Requirements

For information regarding Conditional Acceptance, click here.

Procedure for Admission to the Associate of Science in Medical Assisting Program

In addition to general admission to the University, students should be able to meet the following technical standards for the Medical Assisting Program.

1. Background Check:
   Students must complete a background check at their own expense using the agency identified by the MA Program Director. No other background checks will be accepted. The background check must be completed at least three weeks prior to the intended start date of the first MA Practicum clinical placement. Students with a positive background check will not be allowed to start AHS2098 Medical Assisting Practicum and will be referred to the MA Progression Committee. The MA program follows the College of Health Professions Background Check Policy and Substance Abuse and Screening Policy located in the South University Catalog (www.southuniversity.edu/admissions/academic-catalog). Applicants are not eligible for admittance into any portion of the MA program if they have a felony conviction, plea, or adjudication withheld, or any disqualifying misdemeanor, for which a pardon or exemption for disqualification has not been received, including but not limited to rape or sexual abuse or molestation, and abuse, endangerment, or neglect of a child, disabled person, or elderly person.
2. Drug Screen:
   Students must complete drug screen at their own expense using the agency identified by the MA Program Director. No other drug screens will be accepted. The screen must be completed at least three weeks prior to the intended start date of the first MA Practicum clinical placement. Students with a positive drug screen will not be allowed to start the MA Practicum and will be referred to the MA Progression Committee. The MA program follows the College of Health Professions Substance Abuse and Screening Policy located in the South University Catalog (http://www.southuniversity.edu/admissions/academic-catalog).
3. Technical Standards:
   Students must meet the technical standards, which describe the physical abilities and behavioral characteristics required of students for full participation and successful completion of the MA program, as well as to function as a fully qualified medical assistant after graduation. Prospective MA students should review these standards and determine if they have any limitations that may interfere with their ability to satisfy any of these requirements.

The technical standards are:

- **Sensory**
  Medical Assisting students must be able to read charts, graphs, instrument scales and medication orders, prepare and maintain medical records, and use their senses of hearing and touch to recognize emergencies and to assess the patient's physical condition.
- **Communication**
  The Medical Assisting student must be able to read and write effectively in order to transmit information to all members of the healthcare team. The student must also be able to assess nonverbal communication and

respond appropriately.
Additional requirements include the ability to interview and record patient histories, provide patient care instructions, use correct telephone technique, collect, prioritize and convey information.

- **Fine Motor Skills**
  The Medical Assisting student must manifest all the fine motor skills necessary to safely and accurately use medical instruments and perform diagnostic and clinical procedures (e.g. obtaining the patient's blood pressure, heart rate and temperature, drawing blood and administering non-intravenous injections).
  The student must be able to perform basic secretarial skills, including using a keyboard and the operation of common office equipment.
- **Gross Motor Skills**
  The Medical Assisting student must be able to support patients when ambulating, assist patients in and out of a wheelchair, and on and off an examination table. Students must be able to reach equipment and supplies and respond appropriately to emergency situations in a timely manner.
- **Psychological Stability**
  The Medical Assisting student must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult interpersonal situations in a calm and tactful manner. The student must also be able to maintain a composed, competent, and confident demeanor during emergency situations.

MA Clinical Practicum Policies

1. Proof of Immunization:
   MA students are required to provide evidence of the initiation or completion of the Hepatitis B immunization series and current flu shot. The student must upload all original lab results and evidence of immunization through the background screening and compliance tracking agency identified by the MA Program at least three weeks prior to the intended start date of AHS2098 Medical Assisting Practicum. Additional vaccinations may be required by clinical sites. All associated fees are the responsibility of the student.
2. CPR/ First Aid and Physical Exam:
   Students must provide verification of a health care provider level CPR/First Aid certification at their own expense prior to the start of the AHS2098 Medical Assisting Practicum clinical courses in the technical phase of the MA program. A Physical Exam and tuberculosis assessment may be required by some clinical sites prior to the MA Practicum. All associated fees are the responsibility of the student.

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section here.

Program Overview

Offered at Columbia and Savannah.
South University - Montgomery is no longer enrolling new applicants into the Associate of Science Medical Assisting (MA) as of February 25, 2026.

Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

Medical assistants are multi-skilled allied health professionals who perform a wide range of roles in physicians' offices, clinics, and other healthcare settings. They are proficient in a multitude of clinical and administrative tasks and are widely viewed by doctors as vital members of the healthcare delivery team.

The medical assisting program is devoted to a competency-based education with emphasis on the students' mastery of clinical and administrative competencies. These competencies are validated through performance on tests, terminal performance objectives, and a clinical externship. Their training culminates in a required 160-hour, supervised practicum at a local medical practice during their last quarter of study.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will utilize communication and inter-personal relationship skills.
- Students will explain anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology principles.
- Students will explain and perform medical assisting administration procedures.
- Students will describe and perform medical assisting clinical procedures.
- Students will explain the importance of¬¨,Ä† medical law and ethics.
- Students will identify skills required to develop and maintain professionalism.
- Students will solve problems using basic math and science skills.
- Students will memorize medical terminology and apply it correctly while performing processes.
- Students will apply psychology principles.

Student Progression Policy

Associate of Science in Medical Assisting Formative Progression Standards

Associate of Science in Medical Assisting: 92 Credits

Curriculum for Columbia and Savannah.

Area I General Education Requirements: 32 Credits

Professional Development

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
ITS1000	Computer and Internet Literacy	4
UVC1000	Strategies for Success	4

Basic Communications

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
ENG1100	Composition I	4
COM2006	Interpersonal Communication	4
SPC1026	Public Speaking	4

Social and Behavioral Sciences: Choose one 4. credit course.

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective Pool	

Social and Behavioral Sciences Electives

ECO2071	Principles of Microeconomics	4
ECO2072	Principles of Macroeconomics	4
POL1150	Contemporary Issues	4
POL2076	American Government	4
PSY1001	General Psychology	4
SOC1001	Introduction to Sociology	4
SOC2010	Social Problems	4

Mathematics and Statistics: Choose one 4.0 credit course.

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Mathematics and Statistics Elective Pool	

Mathematics and Statistics Electives

MAT1001	College Algebra I	4
MAT1005	College Algebra II	4
MAT1500	College Mathematics	4
MAT2058	Statistics	4

Arts and Humanities: Choose one 4.0 credit course.

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Arts and Humanities Elective Pool	

Arts and Humanities Electives

ENG2002	World Literature I: From the Ancient World to the Middle Ages	4
ENG2003	World Literature II: From Enlightenment to Modernity	4
ENG2011	Introduction to American Literature: 1865 to present	4
ENG2020	Introduction to Film Studies	4
HIS1101	U.S. History I: Colonial to 1865	4
HIS1102	U.S. History II: 1865 to Present	4
HUM1001	History of Art through the Middle Ages	4
HUM1002	History of Art from the Middle Ages to Modern Times	4
HUM1003	Appreciation of the Arts	4
HUM1200	Social Responsibility and the Self	4
HUM2101	World Civilization I: Prehistory to 1500 C.E.	4
HUM2102	World Civilization II: 1500 to Present	4
PHI1001	Introduction to Ethics	4
PHI2301	Introduction to Philosophy	4
REL1001	World Religions	4

Area II Foundation Requirements: 28 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
AHS1001	Medical Terminology	4
AHS1085	Musculoskeletal, Nervous, and Integumentary Systems	4
AHS1086	Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems	4
AHS1087	Endocrine, Urinary, and Reproductive Systems	4
AHS1088	Lymphatic, Immune, and Digestive Systems	4
AHS1089	Introduction to Healthcare Documentation, Law, and Ethics	4
AHS1090	Professional Development for Healthcare Professionals	4

Area III Major Program Requirements: 32 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
AHS2005	Clinical Competencies I	4
AHS2006	Clinical Competencies II	4
AHS2007	Clinical Laboratory Competencies	4
AHS2087	Medical Office Procedures	4
AHS2090	Medical Insurance and Coding	4
AHS2092	Computers in the Medical Office	4

Capstone

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
AHS2095	Medical Assisting Certification Review	2
AHS2098	Medical Assisting Practicum	6

Associate of Science in Medical Assisting: 92 Credits

Curriculum for Montgomery.

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Area I General Education Requirements: 28 Credits

Professional Development

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
ITS1000	Computer and Internet Literacy	4
UVC1000	Strategies for Success	4

Basic Communications

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
ENG1100	Composition I	4
COM2006	Interpersonal Communication	4

Social and Behavioral Sciences: Choose one 4.0 credit course.

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective Pool	

Social and Behavioral Sciences Electives

ECO2071	Principles of Microeconomics	4
ECO2072	Principles of Macroeconomics	4
POL1150	Contemporary Issues	4
POL2076	American Government	4
PSY1001	General Psychology	4
SOC1001	Introduction to Sociology	4
SOC2010	Social Problems	4

Arts and Humanities: Choose one 4.0 credit course.

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Arts and Humanities Elective Pool	

Arts and Humanities Electives

ENG2002	World Literature I: From the Ancient World to the Middle Ages	4
ENG2003	World Literature II: From Enlightenment to Modernity	4
ENG2011	Introduction to American Literature: 1865 to present	4
ENG2020	Introduction to Film Studies	4
HIS1101	U.S. History I: Colonial to 1865	4
HIS1102	U.S. History II: 1865 to Present	4
HUM1001	History of Art through the Middle Ages	4
HUM1002	History of Art from the Middle Ages to Modern Times	4
HUM1003	Appreciation of the Arts	4
HUM1200	Social Responsibility and the Self	4
HUM2101	World Civilization I: Prehistory to 1500 C.E.	4
HUM2102	World Civilization II: 1500 to Present	4
PHI1001	Introduction to Ethics	4
PHI2301	Introduction to Philosophy	4
REL1001	World Religions	4

Mathematics and Statistics: Choose once 4.0 credit course

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
	Mathematics and Statistics Elective Pool	

Mathematics and Statistics Electives

MAT1001	College Algebra I	4
MAT1005	College Algebra II	4
MAT1500	College Mathematics	4
MAT2058	Statistics	4

Area II Foundation Requirements Online: 32 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
AHS1001	Medical Terminology	4
AHS1085	Musculoskeletal, Nervous, and Integumentary Systems	4
AHS1086	Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems	4
AHS1087	Endocrine, Urinary, and Reproductive Systems	4
AHS1088	Lymphatic, Immune, and Digestive Systems	4
AHS1089	Introduction to Healthcare Documentation, Law, and Ethics	4
AHS1090	Professional Development for Healthcare Professionals	4
AHS1091	Medical Asepsis and Electrocardiography	4

Area III Major Program Requirements Hybrid: 32 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
AHS2005	Clinical Competencies I	4
AHS2006	Clinical Competencies II	4
AHS2007	Clinical Laboratory Competencies	4
AHS2087	Medical Office Procedures	4
AHS2090	Medical Insurance and Coding	4
AHS2092	Computers in the Medical Office	4
AHS2095	Medical Assisting Certification Review	2
AHS2098	Medical Assisting Practicum	6
	Total Credits	92