

Medical Assisting Program

Essential Skills for Admission and Progression

Physical and Psychological Requirements

Students applying to the Medical Assisting (MA) program must demonstrate sufficient physical and emotional health to be considered fit to participate in academic education and laboratory experiences, and to practice clinically with the public in a safe and effective manner.

Issue	Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities (Not Inclusive)
CRITICAL THINKING	Critical thinking ability sufficient for problem solving and clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations • Develop appropriate interventions • Assess risks and provide for patient safety • Consider multiple priorities • Make effective decisions quickly
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact appropriately with patients, families, and groups from a variety of backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients and colleagues • Cope effectively with stress in the workplace • Cope with patient and colleague emotions calmly • Demonstrate a high degree of patience
COMMUNICATION	Communication abilities sufficient for professional oral and written interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give formal/informal reports on patient progress • Provide patient/caregiver education • Conduct interviews
MOBILITY	Physical abilities sufficient to move throughout facilities and within small spaces to provide effective patient care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move around efficiently in patient rooms, bathrooms and treatment areas • Stand, squat, reach above head, lift, push, pull • Walk the equivalent of 3 miles daily at work
MOTOR SKILLS	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective MA practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabricate and use adaptive devices • Position and transfer patients • Utilize gross and fine motor skills in patient care
HEARING	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs and maintain facility safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds and cries for help • Hear telephone communications
VISION	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in MA practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe patient responses to treatment, such as changes in skin color or facial expression • Read assessment instruments
TACTILE	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and interventions in MA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform palpation such as in venipuncture and parenteral medication administration. • Carry out MA assessments and interventions
EMOTIONAL	Emotional stability sufficient to maintain composure in stressful situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interact appropriately with peers, patients and supervisors at all times, including high stress • Receive corrective feedback calmly
ENVIRONMENTAL	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt to variations in work schedule • Work with chemicals required for MA practice • Work in areas that are close or crowded

A prospective student with a disability that is concerned that the disability may impact his or her ability to perform one or more of these skills, provide patient care, or participate in other job activities, is encouraged to contact a disabilities services staff member for assistance by calling 919-536-7208 or by emailing disabilityservices@durhamtech.edu.

Student signature _____

Date _____