

Medical Assistants

SOC: 31-9092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$44,200

Median Salary

811,000

Employment

+12.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 48.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.2/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.8/10	Investigative	6.0/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	8.4/10
Enterprising	4.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Compassion, Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Medical Assistants perform clinical and administrative tasks to **support healthcare providers and ensure efficient patient care**. They prepare patients for exams, take vital signs, assist with procedures, and manage medical records. Their work is critical in clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, patient interaction, and working in fast-paced medical environments.

What Do Medical Assistants Do?

These professionals provide direct support to medical staff and help maintain smooth healthcare operations.

Common responsibilities include:

- Preparing patients for examinations and procedures
- Taking vital signs, medical histories, and basic lab samples
- Assisting healthcare providers during exams and treatments
- Administering medications or injections under supervision
- Managing patient records and scheduling appointments
- Performing administrative tasks such as billing and coding
- Educating patients on treatment plans, medications, or preventive care

Key Areas of Medical Assistance

Medical assistants may focus on clinical tasks, administrative duties, or both:

- Clinical Support: Taking vitals, performing lab tests, and assisting in procedures
- Administrative Duties: Scheduling, billing, and maintaining patient records
- Patient Education: Providing guidance on medications, treatments, and wellness
- Medical Equipment Handling: Preparing and sterilizing instruments and equipment
- Compliance and Safety: Following HIPAA regulations and infection control protocols

Skills and Abilities Needed

Medical assistants combine clinical knowledge, organizational skills, and patient care abilities.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical training:

- Postsecondary Certificate or Associate Degree: Medical assisting or related healthcare program
- Clinical Internship or Practicum: Hands-on experience in a healthcare setting
- Certification (optional but recommended): Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) or Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)
- On-the-Job Training: Learning office procedures, electronic records, and clinical techniques
- Continuing Education: Staying current on medical procedures, technology, and regulations

Where Do Medical Assistants Work?

They are employed in organizations that provide patient care and health services:

- Physician Offices and Clinics
- Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities
- Specialty Medical Practices
- Urgent Care and Community Health Centers

- Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation Facilities

Work environments include exam rooms, offices, laboratories, and patient care areas.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Medical assistants must manage multiple tasks, handle patients with care, and adhere to healthcare standards.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy helping patients and working in healthcare
- Are detail-oriented and organized
- Can multitask and work under supervision
- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Want a career supporting medical staff and patient care

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, health sciences, and medical terminology
- Volunteer or intern in clinics, hospitals, or healthcare programs
- Develop communication, organizational, and technical skills
- Gain hands-on experience with patient care and administrative tasks
- Explore accredited medical assisting programs and certification options

Medical assistants support healthcare providers by performing clinical and administrative tasks, ensuring patients receive effective, efficient, and compassionate care.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-assistants.htm>