Lakeland Community College
Medical Assisting Certificate Program – Advising Guide 2026-2027

Program Director:
Denise Lash, MEd, BS-HS, CMA (AAMA)
dlash4@lakelandcc.edu | 440.525.7428

Program Overview
Medical Assistants are **multi-skilled healthcare professionals** who are trained to perform both clinical and administrative tasks in outpatient settings such as medical offices, clinics, and ambulatory care centers.

The Medical Assisting Certificate Program prepares students with a foundation of skills that **may include, but are not limited to:**

- **Clinical tasks:** taking vital signs, performing EKGs, giving injections, and performing venipuncture (Blood draws)
- **Administrative tasks:** managing electronic health records (EHRs), handling insurance, billing, and coding
- **Professional skills:** communicating clearly, ethically, and respectfully with patients, families, and healthcare teams

These skills prepare graduates to work as valued members of the healthcare team and adapt to the diverse roles of the modern Medical Assistant.

Program Length & Format

- **Full-Time Completion**: 3 semesters – 11 months
- **Part-Time Completion**: approximately 6 semesters
- **Delivery**: Hybrid (mix of online and in-person coursework)
- **Clinical Practicum**: 160 hours off-campus during summer semester

Admission Requirements

- Lakeland application and declared Medical Assisting as major
- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Meet with program director and counselor for approval
- Complete and submit signed program application after meeting with program director and counselor
- High school students may apply through CCP

Program Curriculum Overview

Important Course & Program Requirements

- It is highly recommended that you complete HLTH 1215: Medical Terminology before starting your core MDAS courses.
- If you do not take HLTH 1215 before starting, you are required to take it at the same time as your first-semester MDAS courses.
- HLTH courses may be taken before entering the MDAS program or at the same time as your MDAS courses.
- All HLTH and MDAS courses from the first and second semesters must be passed with a grade of "C" or higher in order to qualify for MDAS 1700 Practicum.
- All MAERB Core Competencies must also be completed and passed with a grade of "C" or higher before beginning MDAS 1700 Practicum.

Program Curriculum

- HLTH 1215 - Medical Terminology for Health Professions (3 credits)
  It is highly recommended that you complete HLTH 1215: Medical Terminology before starting your core MDAS courses.

First Semester

- HLTH 1238 – Human Body Structure & Function (4 credits)
- MDAS 1110 – Administrative Procedures (3 credits)
- MDAS 1150 – Insurance & Reimbursements (3 credits)
- MDAS 1210 – Basic Patient Skills (2 credits)

Second Semester

- HLTH 1600 – Basic Pharmacology (2 credits)
- MDAS 1250 – Surgical Procedures (2 credits)
- MDAS 1220 – Specialty Medical Assisting (3 credits)
- MDAS 1300 – Physician Office Lab (3 credits)

Third Semester (First 8 Weeks)

- MDAS 1700 – Practicum (160 clinical hours) (3 credits)
- MDAS 1800 – Seminar (1 credits)

All HLTH and MDAS courses must be passed with a C or higher.
MDAS courses must be taken in sequence.

Estimated Program Costs (2026-2027)

By Residency Status

- **Lake County Residents: ~$4,984** (estimated)

- **Out-of-County: ~$6,698** (estimated)
- **Out-of-State: ~$12,394** (estimated)

Breakdown of Costs

- **Tuition & Fees (29 credit hours):** $3,994.75
- **Lab & Course Fees:** $352.00 + $14.25
- **Application Fee:** $55
    - *May be covered by financial aid with completion of the Title IV Authorization Form (available on Lakeland's website).*
- **Textbooks:** ~$325.83 (covers all MDAS + HLTH courses)
- **Background Check & Drug Test:** $116.71
- **Certification Exam:** $125
    - *Scholarships may be available to cover partial exam costs (pending approval).*

Medical Assisting Program Supplies

Item	Required or Recommended	Estimated Cost	Notes
Scrubs (2 sets: top & bottom)	**Required**	$60–$70	Worn for all lab and clinical activities.
	Recommended	$25–$50	Personal use encouraged; Lakeland provides in-lab equipment.
Blood Pressure Cuff	Recommended	$25–$40	Helpful for practice outside of class.
Lab Tools (penlight, measuring tape, etc.)	Recommended	~$25	Small tools that reinforce skill practice.
General School Supplies (notebooks, binders, pens, etc.)	**Required**	~$50	For coursework and organization.

Estimated Total for Supplies

- **Minimum Required (scrubs + basic supplies):** ~$110–$120
- **With Recommended Items Included:** ~$135–$170

Financial Support

Scholarships and financial aid are available to help cover tuition, supplies, and the certification exam. Students are encouraged to ask about options and apply early.

Certification & Graduation

- Students receive a Lakeland Certificate of Completion
- Eligible to sit for national certification exams, including:
    - CMA (AAMA)
    - RMA (AMT)
    - NCMA (NCCT)

Career Opportunities

- **Job Titles**: Medical Assistant, Clinical Office Assistant, Outpatient Tech, Clinical Technician, Clinical Manager
- **Settings**: Physician offices, urgent care, outpatient clinics, specialty practices
- **Outlook**: High demand across Northeast Ohio and beyond

Stackable Credentials

Add additional value to your career by completing:

- **Phlebotomy**
- **Electrocardiography (EKG)**
- **Medical Coding**
- **Administrative Medical Office Assistant**

Medical Assisting + STNA + Phlebotomy = Patient Care Technician (PCT)
*Students who complete training in **Medical Assisting, STNA**, and **Phlebotomy** may be eligible to apply for **Patient Care Technician (PCT) registration** through the **American Medical Technologists (AMT).***

These short-term certificates can be earned before, during, or after the MA program to build your resume.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

- Apply to Lakeland Community College
- Declare Medical Assisting (3550) as your major
- Contact the program director to schedule a meeting
  Denise Lash at **dlash4@lakelandcc.edu** or 440.525.7428

Understanding Your Courses: HLTH vs. MDAS

Starting college can feel confusing, especially if this is your first time in higher education. Below is a simple guide to help you understand the difference between HLTH and MDAS courses, and what you need to know to stay on track in the Medical Assisting program.

---

1. HLTH Courses (Health Science Classes)

- These are general health courses that give you background knowledge (for example, medical terminology, basic health concepts, nutrition, etc.).
- You can take HLTH classes before you start the Medical Assisting (MDAS) program, or at the same time as your MDAS classes.

---

2. MDAS Courses (Medical Assisting Classes)

- These are the core program courses that prepare you to be a Medical Assistant.
- MDAS courses are hands-on and career-focused (skills, labs, and clinical preparation).
- These courses build on each other, so it's important to follow the program sequence.

---

3. Medical Terminology (HLTH 1215)

- Highly recommended: Take Medical Terminology (HLTH 1215) before starting your first MDAS classes.
- If you don't take it first, you must take it at the same time as your first MDAS semester.
- This class is important because it teaches you the language of healthcare, which will make all your other classes easier to understand.

---

4. Practicum (MDAS 1700 – Your Clinical Experience)

- The **Practicum** is where you go out into a healthcare office and work as a Medical Assistant under supervision.
- To be allowed into Practicum, you must:
    - Pass all HLTH and MDAS classes in your first and second semesters with a grade of C or higher.
    - Successfully complete all required skills and competencies (set by MAERB, our accrediting body) with at least a C or higher.

---

5. Why This Matters

- Think of HLTH courses as your foundation (basic knowledge).
- Think of MDAS courses as your core training (career skills).
- You need both parts — plus passing grades and completed competencies — before you can move on to your clinical practicum.

Simple Summary:

- Take HLTH 1215 (Medical Terminology) early, if possible.
- Pass all HLTH and MDAS courses with a C or higher.
- Complete all skills and competencies.
- Then you can move on to MDAS 1700 (your practicum/real-world experience).