



**MDCA 1302 102IN**  
**Human Disease/Pathophysiology for Medical Assistants**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Internet**

**Instructor Information:** Darlene Alexander A.A.S., CMA, RMA; [dalexander@com.edu](mailto:dalexander@com.edu)  
Office 409-933-8231

**Student hours and location:** by appointments and virtual

**Required Textbook:** *Medical Assisting*, Booth, Whicker & Wyman, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-264-96025-5

**Required Workbook:** *Student Workbook for Use with Medical Assisting*, Booth, Whicker & Wyman, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-264-96450-5

**Brightspace D2L**

- We will be using Brightspace D2L for this course, so you will need access to a computer and the Internet. There is also a **mobile-friendly** app and can be used on your phone or tablet through the or a mobile browser!

**Computers**

- You will need a computer with audio and video capabilities. Exams may be given online and require a webcam and microphone. While the majority of the tests will be on-line, there may be times you are asked to take a proctored exam remotely. You may take your exams on campus, and computers are located in the library and the tutoring center.

**Course Description:** Emphasis on normal human anatomy and physiology of cells, tissue organs, and systems with overview of common pathophysiology.

**Course Prerequisite Co-Requisite:** MDCA 1309, MDCA 1443, MDCA 1321 and HITT 1305 must be taken with MDCA 1302 as a co-requisite

**Course requirements:**

1. Log into Brightspace/D2L at content and a week to check for Announcements and e-mail, review the Learning Module content, and complete all graded course activities.
2. Complete and submit all graded activities within the time limit prescribed by the instructor. Graded activities and their due dates are indicated in the Course Schedule toward the end of this document but are subject to revision if circumstances (such as hurricanes) dictate.
3. **Maintain an average of 75% or better.** Students are responsible for submitting weekly graded activities within the date/time parameters indicated in the Course Schedule.

4. The mid-term and final exam will be administered as indicated on the Course Schedule.
5. Students must have all required skill procedures in order and completed for each semester.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:** Case studies, assignments, chapter quizzes, mid-term exam, and final exam. Grading rubric for assignments is found on the course menu. Quizzes and exams are self-grading by Brightspace/D2L.

**Grading Formula:** As a student you are required to complete all lessons, assignments, and tests as part of each course within the program. Your semester grade will be comprised of:

**Grading Scale:**

Assignments/Homework	20%	A = 90%-100%
Quizzes	15%	B = 80%-89.99%
Discussion	10%	C = 75%-79.99%
Mid-Term	25%	D = 70%-74.99%
Final	30%	F = 0%-69.99%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

***A student must receive a “C” (75%) or better.” If a student receives a grade of a “D”, or “F” for the same MDCA course on two occasions, the student will not be eligible to continue in the Medical Assistant Program.***

*The Medical Assisting program uses a competency-based evaluation process that provides the students with three attempts to pass. If the student completes a competency on their first attempt, the student will earn a grade of 100%. If the student completes on their second attempt, the student will earn a grade of 90%. If the student completes on their third attempt, the student will earn a grade of 80%. Should the competency not be passed with an 80% or higher, the student will be required to repeat the course. Competency evaluations are averaged at the end of term for the student's final grade. A student must receive a “C” (75%) or better.” If a student receives a grade of a “D”, or “F” for the same MDCA course on two occasions, the student will not be eligible to continue in the Medical Assistant Program*

**Late Work:** A missed or late assignment, without a written request before the due date may still be submitted, but it will only receive a maximum grade of 70. The missing work must be completed within five days past its original due date. All class work is due on the date it is given – no exceptions! Homework assignments not posted in Brightspace/D2L will be given a grade of zero.

**Make-Up Policy:** If a student misses a graded activity due to an **emergency absence, or illness (of the student)**, it is the student's responsibility to promptly arrange for make-up work.

Parameters for make-up work will be made at the discretion of the instructor and may not be an option, depending on the circumstances. Furthermore, students that cannot take an exam within the allotted time must contact the instructor in order for the test to be considered for an additional attempt. The percentage of each activity will weigh in the final grade, regardless of the student participates in the activity or test. It is also at the instructor's discretion to accept late

submissions. Keep in mind, you must contact the instructor and make any arrangements for submission. Do not expect the instructor to remind you. If you fail to contact the instructor, no late work assignments will be accepted.

**Quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of zero and it might affect your average.**

**Mid-term and Exam make-ups will not be allowed unless there is an emergency, and I must be notified before the time of the exam.**

**Attendance Policy for Online Classes:** Regular attendance and active participation in online classes are essential for successful learning. Students are expected to log in on time, remain present for the duration of each session, and actively engage in class discussions and activities. Attendance will be monitored through login records, participation in discussions, and timely submission of assignments. Each week, you will interact with your peers in discussions and complete a series of assignments. This regular schedule allows us to learn from one another, and it keeps everyone on a path toward our learning goals.

If a student is unable to attend a session due to valid reasons, they must notify the instructor in advance or as soon as possible and are responsible for catching up on missed content. Repeated absences or lack of participation may affect the final grade and overall performance in the course.

**Course Communication Policy:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Brightspace or other LMS) [dalexander@com.edu](mailto:dalexander@com.edu) or 409-933-8231.

### Student Learner Outcomes:

SLO	Maps to Course Objective	Assess by Activities
<b>SLO #1.</b>	<b>Communication Skills:</b> Students will effectively develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral and visual communication (written, oral, and visual).	Chapter Assignments
<b>SLO #2.</b>	<b>Critical Thinking Skills:</b> Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry & the ability to analyze, evaluate & synthesize information.	Quizzes
<b>SLO #3.</b>	<b>Teamwork:</b> Students will consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.	Discussions and Videos

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Kay Carrier Allied Health Careers Chairperson at 409-933-8414 / [kcariere3@com.edu](mailto:kcariere3@com.edu).

**Notice to Students Regarding Licensing:** Effective September 1, 2017, HB 1508 amends the Texas Occupations Code Section 53 that requires education providers to notify potential or enrolled students that a criminal history may make them ineligible for an occupational license upon program completion. The following website provides links to information about the licensing process and requirements:

### Course Outline:

#### Human Disease/Pathophysiology

Week	Date Opens	Date Closes	Lecture	Gradable Activities
1	Aug 18	Aug 24	Chapter 21 Organization of the Body	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz <b>Reading Syllabus</b>
2	Aug 25	Aug 31	Chapter 22 The Integumentary System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
3	Sept 1	Sept 7	Chapter 23 The Skeletal System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
4	Sept 8	Sept 14	Chapter 24 The Muscular System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
5	Sept 15	Sept 21	Chapter 25 The Cardiovascular System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
6	Sept 22	Sept 28	Chapter 26 The Blood	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
7	Sept 29	Oct 5	Chapter 27 The Lymphatic and Immune System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
8	Oct 6	Oct 12	Chapter 28 The Respiratory System	<b>Mid-Term Due by 4:00 pm</b>
9	Oct 13	Oct 19	<b>Mid-Term</b>	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
10	Oct 20	Oct 26	<b>Spring Break</b>	

11	Oct 27	Nov 2	Chapter 29 The Nervous System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
12	Nov 3	Nov 9	Chapter 30 The Urinary System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
13	Nov 10	Nov 16	Chapter 31 The Reproductive System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
14	Nov 17	Nov 23	Chapter 32 The Digestive System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
15	Nov 24	Nov 30	Chapter 33 The Endocrine System	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
16	Dec 1	May 3	Chapter 34 Special Senses	Connect Assignments, Homework Discussion and Quiz
1	Aug 18	Aug 24	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Due by 4:00 pm</b>

*\*This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor\**

### **Entry Level Competencies for the Medical Assistant taken from the 2022 Standards and Guidelines for the Medical Assisting Educational Programs:**

This course includes the following competencies: (Cognitive, Psychomotor, Affective)

#### **This course includes the following competencies:**

- ✓ Define and spell the terms associated with disease of each body system
- ✓ Name and define the manifestations of disease
- ✓ Understand terms used to describe disease
- ✓ Identify common pathology related to each body system
- ✓ Analyze pathology as it relates to the interaction of body systems
- ✓ Discuss implications for disease and disability when homeostasis is not maintained
- ✓ Describe implications for treatment related to pathology
- ✓ Name and define the chief causes of disease

#### **Knowledge Based:**

- 1.C.1. Describe structural organization of the human body.
- 1.C.2. Identify body systems.
- 1.C.3. Describe body planes, directional terms, quadrants, and cavities.
- 1.C.4. List major organs in each body system.
- 1.C.5. Identify the anatomical location of major organs in each body system.
- 1.C.6. Compare the structure and function of the human body across the life span.
- 1.C.7. Describe the normal function of each body system.
- 1.C.8. Identify common pathology related to each body system.
- V.C.9. Identify Clinic Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived tests associated with common diseases.
- V.C.10. Define medical terms and abbreviations related to all the body systems.
- V.C.11. Identify quality assurance practices in healthcare
- V.C.12. Identify basic principles of first aid
- V.C.13. Identify appropriate vaccinations based on an immunization schedule

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## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students with the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

- Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator
- Phone: 409-933-8919
- Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)
- Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention is very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program, you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

**Tardiness Policy:** Failure to interact with course content via Brightspace/D2L as indicated on the Course Schedule and module overview pages in Brightspace/D2L can likewise negatively impact a student's final course grade.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website, and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action. In this course you may not use AI for any assignment in any way, shape, or form. Use of AI will be treated as plagiarism. **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Any assignment containing material generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Online Activities:**

Any quiz, exam, or learn smart assignment will be hosted online on the publisher's server – McGraw Hill Connect, however, access to assessments and learn smart assignments are conducted through links in Brightspace. Only access the quizzes, exams, and learn smart assignments through the links provided in each learning module. Feedback on your assessments can be reviewed after each quiz or exam, or exam is completed. Each learn smart assignment provides feedback as you proceed through the material. Practice assessments are also available in Connect for each Chapter. Ongoing feedback is important for you to assess your progress in the course and to determine if your approach to learning the material is effective.

- **Case Study:** Assignments will be provided in the Brightspace/D2L learning modules. Download and save the word document and edit your response. Your completed document will be uploaded in the assignment link. A case Study rubric is provided in the rubric menu link. Use it to guide you in the completion of your document. Instructors feedback will be provided individually on your submission through your My Grades tool.
- **Discussions:** are conducted on Brightspace/D2L through the Discussions tool. The forum will help foster connections with your fellow classmates and will contribute to the sense of community (online). The discussion post will also supplement your mastery of the content and strength your communication and writing skills. A discussions rubric is provided in the Rubric menu link. Use it to guide you in your posts and replies. Instructor feedback will be provided individually on each discussion through your My Grades tool.



**Professionalism:** Success in one's career is almost as dependent on professional behavior as on one's academic knowledge and abilities. Therefore, students are expected to exhibit professional behavior in the classroom as well as all activities with this course. Professional behavior includes:

- **Dependable** – The student meets assignment deadlines and follows through to completion of responsibilities.
- **Effective interpersonal and team skills** – The student relates well to people, shows respect to others, deals tactfully and effectively with others, influences as opposed to directs, provides constructive criticism without altering others, negotiates or mediates when appropriate, exhibits openness to new ideas, and demonstrates a positive attitude.
- **Effective communication skills** – The student listens, speaks using correct grammar and without excess fillers, e.g., um, you know, like.
- **Ethical conduct** – The student maintains honesty, integrity, and confidentiality of patient provider, fellow student, and college information.

#### Success Tips for Students:

- Read all assignments and understand requirements for completing assignment prior to coming to class.
- **Three Prior to Me:** The MA faculty encourages students to problem-solve, work as a team as well as utilize available resources. In order to develop these skills, we will employ the “**Three Prior to Me**” process. This means that before you contact the instructor with a course-related question, you must have attempted to find the information in three other places. For instance, if you are unsure about the meaning of a term used in the course, you would attempt to locate this information in three places prior to asking the instructor. Hence, you might do a Google search for the term, ask a classmate, and refer to your textbook. Instructors will question you regarding what research methods you utilized to locate information on your own. This process is not meant to be a barrier to you, but instead to provide the following benefits:
  - Preparation for the workforce.
  - Increased research skills.
  - Instructors will have more time to provide feedback and interact with students.

Because this is an online course, all of the weekly allotted time (at least 6 hours) for this course will be spent interacting with course content via Brightspace/D2L primarily by completing weekly quizzes, posting responses to discussion prompts or group case studies, and by reviewing the Learning Module content.

Additionally, this means students must take more initiative for their own learning and employ good time management and organizational skills. Students also need to take more initiative in asking questions about anything they do not understand about the course, the content or graded assignments.

#### Useful Websites:

- Student Resources: <https://www.com.edu/students>
- Library and Bookstore: <https://libguides.com.edu>
- Distance Education FAQs in Parature Knowledge Base: <https://com.parature.com>
- NetTutor: <https://www.com.edu/help-center>



- Disability Services: <https://www.com.edu/counseling/disability-services>
- Speaking, Reading, & Writing Center: <https://www.com.edu/srwc>