



MDCA 1452-102-HY
Medical Assistant Laboratory Procedures
Summer 2025
Wednesday 9:00am - 2:00pm

Instructor Information: Darlene Alexander, A.A.S., CMA, RMA, dalexander@com.edu
Office 409-933-8231

Student hours and location: STEAMS Rm 233, Wednesday 2:00pm -4:30 pm

Required Textbook: Medical Assisting, Both Whicker, and Wyman 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-259-60859-9

Required Textbook: Student Workbook for Use with Medical Assisting, Booth, Whicker, and Wyman, 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-259-47702-3

Course Description: Application of governmental health care guidelines. Includes specimen collection and handling, quality assurance, and quality control in performance of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) - waived laboratory testing.

Course Prerequisite: Students must have completed and successfully pass HITT 1305, MDCA 1443, MDCA 1321, MDCA 1302 and MDCA 1309 in order to take MDCA 1452.

Course Requirements: This is a Hybrid (HY) type course that requires classroom attendance (on campus) and online participation through Brightspace. For the online portion of the course, you are required to log into Brightspace for a minimum of 3 hours per week. You will also be required to wear a uniform consisting of grape-colored scrubs and appropriate shoes.

In order to successfully complete MDCA 1452, the student is responsible for the following:

1. Adhere to attendance policy.
2. Complete all assignments as designated in the course outline and/or schedule.
3. Pass all written quizzes and exams with a minimum grade of 75%.
4. Complete lab skills with a minimum grade of 90%.
5. Adhere to Dress Code

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance):

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 comprise of:

Grading Scale:

Assignments/Homework	15%	A = 90.0% to 100%
Attendance Lab/Participation	15%	B = 80.0% to 89.9%
Discussion	10%	C = 75.0% to 79.9%
Test/Quiz	10%	D = 70% to 74.9%
Mid-Term	20%	F = 0 to 70%
Final	30%	
Total	100%	

Please note: “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: Late work is defined as work not turned in when a student is present in class. Late work may be turned in with ten points off for each day the work is late up to an average of 70% or 2 days. All class work is due on the day it is given. Any class assignment not turned in on time will be considered late. All homework assignments are due on the assigned day – no exceptions! Homework assignments not turned in the next class day will be given a grade of zero.

Make-Up Policy: Students that cannot complete assignments on time must contact the instructor. 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 weight in the final grade, regardless of the student participates in the activity or test. Keep in mind, you must contact the instructor and make arrangements for submission BEFRORE the due date, a late submission will be given a score of zero. Do not expect the instructor to remind you.

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: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Absences in a course may affect a student's final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student's final grade. **BE ON TIME:** Each student is expected to be on time, attend all scheduled classes, and stay for the entire class session. Coming to class late and/or leaving class early (before being released by the instructor) will result in an absence.. Three tardies count as one absence. Any student arriving more than 5 minutes after class has started or leaves before class is dismissed will be considered absent for the entire class. Points will be deducted from lab grades for missed class. Attendance will be checked daily by the instructor. Absences and tardiness will be recorded. Any student with 3 consecutive absences will receive a course grade of F. A student who has accumulated enough absences to receive a grade of F may still attend class. Once a grade of F has been awarded for poor attendance, the final grade will be F regardless of performance during the rest of the class. Students not logging into the course 2 to 3 times a week can be dropped at the instructor's discretion. In order to take the RMA exam, you must have 720 Instructional and 200 Clinical hours. If an absence occurs, it is mandatory for the student to call my office (409-933-8231) or email and leave a reason for the absence. A student may be dropped for non-attendance after 3 absences.

Communicating with your instructor: 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. Please email me at 832-581-6630

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO	Learning Outcomes	Maps to Core Objective	Assess by Activity
SLO #1:	Perform routine maintenance of administrative and clinical equipment.	Communication Skills	Skills Lab
SLO #2:	Identify and properly utilize office machines, computerized systems, and medical software.	Critical Thinking Skills	Quizzes
SLO #3:	Demonstrate knowledge of medical office business management procedures.	Communication Skills	Assignments

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and 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 / kcarrier3@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:

Laboratory Procedures

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture/Online</i>	<i>Gradable Activities</i>		<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Week One June 4</i>	<i>Chapter 45 Orientation to the Lab</i>	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions		<i>Due June 11</i>
<i>Week Two June 11</i>	<i>Chapter 46 Microbiology and Disease</i>	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz Jun 11</i>	<i>Due Jan 29th</i>
<i>Week Three June 18</i>	<i>Chapter 47 Collecting, Processing, and Urine and Stool Specimen</i>	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz Jun 18</i>	<i>Due Jun 25</i>
<i>Week Four June 25</i>	Lab	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz Jun 25</i>	<i>Due July 2</i>
<i>Week Five July 2</i>	<i>Chapter 48 Collecting, Processing, and Testing Blood Specimens</i>	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz July 2</i>	<i>Due July 9</i>
<i>Week Six July 9</i>		Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz July 9</i>	<i>Due July 16</i>
<i>Week Seven July 16</i>	Lab	Homework, Assignments Connect Assignments, Discussions	<i>Quiz July 16</i>	<i>Due July 23</i>

<i>Week Eight July 23</i>	Lab		Quiz July 23	
<i>Week Nine July 30</i>	Review Blood Draws Skills check off		Quiz July 30	
<i>Week Ten Aug 6</i>	Final			<i>Due By 4:00 pm</i>

**This Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

***Textbook assignments will be assigned in class.*

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)

Knowledge Based:

- I.C.9. Identify common pathology related to each body system including: (a) signs, (b) symptoms, (c) etiology, (d) diagnostic measures, (e) treatment modalities.
- I.C.10. Identify Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived test associated with common diseases.
- I.C.12. Identify quality assurance practices in healthcare.
- II.C.6. Identify normal and abnormal; results as reports in: (a) graphs, (b) tables.
- III.C.1. Identify major types of infectious agents.
- III.C.4. Identify methods of controlling the growth of microorganisms.
- III.C.5. Identify the principles of standard precautions.
- III.C.6. Define personal protective equipment (PPE)
- XII.C.1. Identify workplace safeguards.
- XII.C.2. Identify safety techniques that can be used in responding to accidental exposure to: (a) blood, (b) other body fluids. (c) needle sticks. (d) chemicals.
- XII.C.6. Identify processes for disposal of (a) biohazards waste, (b) chemical.

Skill Based:

- I.P.2. Perform: A. electrocardiography. B. Venipuncture. C. Capillary Puncture. D. Pulmonary Function Testing.
- I.P.3. Perform patient screening using established protocols.
- I.P.4. Verify the rules of medication administration: (a) right patient, (b) right medication, (c) right dose, (d) right route, (e) right time, (f) right documentation.
- I.P.7. Administer parenteral (excluding IV) medication.
- I.P.10. Perform a quality control measure.
- I.P.11. Collect specimens and perform: (a) CLIA waived hematology test. (b) CLIA waived chemistry test. (c) CLIA waived urinalysis. (d) CLIA waived immunology test. (e) CLIA waived microbiology test.

- II.P.2. Differentiate between normal and abnormal test results.
- II.P.3. Maintain lab test results using flow sheets.
- III.P.1. Participate in blood borne pathogen training.
- III.P.2. Select appropriate barrier/ personal protective equipment (PPE)
- III.P.10. Demonstrate proper disposal of biohazardous material: (a) Sharps. (b) Regulated Wastes.
- X.P.3. Document patient care accurately in the medical records
- XII.P.1. Comply with: (a) Safety Signs. (b) Symbols. (c). Labels.
- XII.P.2. Demonstrate proper use of: (a) eyewash equipment. (b). fire extinguishers, (c) sharps disposal containers.
- XII.P.3. Use proper body mechanics.

Behavior Based:

- A.1. Demonstrate critical thinking.

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/docs/Student Handbook 2024-2025 v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *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: The College of the Mainland is committed to providing students with the necessary support and tools for success in their college career. 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 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 1st 8-week session is February 26th. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21st. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is April 30th.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

Early Warning 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 or 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: Class starts at 9:00 and students arriving 5 minutes late result in a tardy by the instructor and the instructor may close the door and not allow further entrance until break time or until the instructor acknowledges their approval to enter will be locked. You must communicate with your instructor before class starts by email or voice mail. After 10 minutes all tardies will equal one absence. This includes all breaks during class time which are 10 minutes each. It will be

the student's responsibility to make up for the missed class work. ***This includes All breaks during any on-campus class times.*** 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. Unless arranged by the instructor BEFORE the due date, a late submission will be given a score of zero. Once the class is closed it WILL NOT be reopened.

Weekly Quizzes: Please Note – The week begins on Wednesday and ends on Tuesdays at midnight. Weekly quizzes will be given in class every Wednesday at the beginning of class, and they will appear on the calendar. Late work may not be accepted unless individuals' arrangements have been made with me prior to the due date and time. I will e-mail you if I make any adjustments to the calendar. If you are not ready at the start of class, you will not be able to test. **Quizzes cannot be made up. No exceptions.**

Behavioral Expectations: All students are expected to help create an environment conducive to effective teaching and learning for all participants. Behavior that disrupts teaching and learning is unacceptable; accordingly, all face-to-face or online interaction should be civilized, respectful, and relevant to the topic. Diverse opinions and engaging argumentation are critical to the higher learning endeavor, but inappropriate behavior that disrespects others or inhibits others from learning may result in sanctions, including but not limited to the removal from the classroom and/or the course. Serious or habitual offenses may result in dismissal for the program.

Plagiarism:

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's 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.

Cell Phone Policy: To maintain a focused and respectful learning environment, **cell phones are strictly prohibited in the classroom.** All devices must be turned "off" or on "silent" and stored out of sight before class begins. Use of a cell phone during class time—for any reason, including texting, calling, or browsing—will be considered a violation of this policy. First-time violations will result in a verbal warning. Subsequent violations may lead to the student being asked to leave the class and may impact participation grades or be reported to the appropriate academic office. If you have an emergency or a situation requiring accessibility accommodations, please speak with the instructor in advance.

Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices: Class Recordings: The Instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless Student Disability Services has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Student Disability Service accommodation. If the instructor or a UTSA office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. *FERPA Guidelines.*

Class Activities: Course topics are introduced and discussed during classroom sessions. Additional group exercises and workbook activities are conducted throughout the class meetings. Generally, ongoing feedback for assessments and assignments will be conducted before and after the assigned due dates.

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/D2L. 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 Blackboard 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 Blackboard 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.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature adults observing all college rules and classroom etiquette. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom. As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. **To show respect for your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you**

receive permission from the instructor. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodation.

Behavioral Responsibilities of Students is a critical aspect of the medical assisting program. Professional behavior is mandated for all students while in class of clinicals. Unprofessional behavior or conduct will NOT be tolerated in this program. Infractions of the policy of College of the Mainland Medical Assisting Program will lead to suspension from class/clinical and/or dismissal from the program. Instructors will document any and all unprofessional behavior/conduct on a College of the Mainland Instructor's warning form.

* **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:

- **Attending class is punctual-** The student attends every class period, arrives on time for class activities or informs the instructor in a timely manner of unavoidable situations that cause the student to be late or miss class.
- **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 for others, deals tactfully and effectively with others, influences as opposed to directs, provides constructive critics 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. Example: Umm, you know, and like.
- **Ethical Conduct-** The student maintains honesty, integrity, and confidentiality of patient provider, fellow student, and college information.

Chain of Command: Students will follow the chain of command (immediate faculty member, director, department chair dean). Failure to do so will prolong any time limits that have been in place.

Required Study Time: Outside study, apart from regular classroom work, is required to successfully complete the required course assignments. The amount of time will vary according to the individual student's abilities. Students are responsible for reading any study materials issued by their instructors.

Suspension will follow documented evidence of:

1. Failure to submit written clinical requirements when due.
2. Unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct may include but not limit to the use of abusive or profane language or gesture; sexual, social, or ethical slurs; loud boisterous or disruptive behavior; returning to class late, talking over instructor's, throwing paperwork on floor or at someone, use of phone in classrooms or laboratory.
3. Failure to adhere to and follow the student handbook policies and procedures.

The First Occurrence will result in:

1. Verbal warning, which is stated on the first day of class at the beginning of every semester.

The Second Occurrence will result in:

1. Placement of warning form in student's folder and
2. Immediate suspension from class or clinical with a mandatory review of the incident by director and department chair within two (2) working days, that may terminate into immediate dismissal from class or clinical for the remainder of the day.

Suspension is defined as: removal from class or clinical site for the remainder of day.

Immediate Dismissal from the program will follow documented evidence of any one or more for the following infractions:

1. Willful lying or deceit.
2. Verbal or physical abuse of faculty, peers, or staff/ other students on campus.
3. Failure to pass class.
4. Cheating, plagiarism, stealing.
5. Disruptive behavior of any kind.
6. Failure to successfully pass psychomotor skills outline in the above syllabus.
7. Misuse of drugs and/or alcoholic beverage and/or abusive substance.
8. Signing another student's name to any document.
9. Being asked to leave clinical site for ANY reason.

The minimum passing score for each performance objective is 90%. A skills checklist will be given at each lab session. It is the student's responsibility to produce the master skills sheet upon final check-off.

Performance Objectives

In a skills laboratory, a simulation of a job-like environment, the student will demonstrate the correct procedure for the following without referring to resource materials. To perform these activities, the student will need a person to function in the role of a patient. The student is expected to perform each procedure with 100% proficiency. In an efficient, safe, ethical, and legal manner the student will:

Clinical learning experience requirements

In order to be eligible for the clinical learning experience, a student must successfully complete

the course(s) with a minimum grade of 75% in the theory component and 90% in the lab skills component. The experience is in a hospital lab or a private clinical lab, as arranged by the MDCA Program Director.

Performance Objectives:

In a skills laboratory, a simulation of a job-like environment, the student will demonstrate the correct procedure for the following without referring to resource materials. To perform these activities, the student will need a person to function in the role of a patient. The student is expected to perform each procedure with 100% proficiency. In efficient, safe, ethical, and legal manner the student will:

1. Given the required equipment and supplies, the student will perform a venipuncture within 10 minutes according to the checklist for each of the following techniques.
 - a. Multisampling evacuated tube system.
 - b. Single sample butterfly/evacuated tube system.
2. Given the required equipment and supplies, the student will demonstrate proper patient identification within 5 minutes according to the checklist which includes:
 - a. Hand washing technique.
 - b. Application of tourniquet.
 - c. Patient identification for both inpatient and outpatient.
3. Given the required equipment and supplies, the student will obtain a specimen of peripheral blood by performing a skin puncture, within 10 minutes, according to the checklist which includes:
 - a. Collection of three capillary tubes.
 - b. Micro-collection.
 - c. POCT- Glucose test (via finger stick).
4. Given the required equipment and supplies, the student will prepare a blood smear for differential counts using the slide-wedge method within 3 minutes, according to the checklist.
5. Demonstrate competency in correct blood tube selection by passing a written exam.
6. Perform specific clerical functions by manual and computer methods relevant to obtaining and documenting specimens of blood.
7. Perform all skills according to OSHA guidelines for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standards.
8. Obtain a blood specimen utilizing the proper color-coded tube with correct coagulant.
9. Evaluate blood samples for specimen integrity.

Phlebotomy for the Medical Assistant Laboratory Skills:

By completion of the course, the student will have demonstrated the following:

1. Five (5) successful venipunctures divided into the following categories:
 - a. Multi-sample evacuated tube system 4.
 - b. Single sample, butterfly/evacuated tube system 1
2. A patient identification exam in which the student is evaluated on the following:
 - a. Patient identification in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
 - b. Hand washing technique.
 - c. Tourniquet application.

3. How to make blood smears for differential counts.
4. 3 Successful skin punctures which include:
 - a. Micro-collection -1
 - b. Capillary tube collection-1 (four different patients with three capillary tubes on each patient).
 - c. POCT- Glucose Test-1
5. How to perform and read a micro hematocrit, including how to correctly balance a centrifuge.
6. Select the correct blood tube for each blood test assigned. This competency will be tested by a written exam.

Clinical Learning Experience Requirements:

In order to be eligible for the clinical learning experience, a student must successfully complete the course(s) with a minimum grade of 75% in the theory component and 90% in the lab skills component. The experience is in a hospital lab or a private clinical lab, as arranged by the MDCA Program Director.

Student Dress for Laboratory:

A physical appearance communicates a strong impression about an individual. Hair combed neatly, fingernails cleaned, pressed clean uniform and an overall professional appearance conveys a commitment to cleanliness and infection control.

1. For safety purposes, students are expected to wear scrubs to laboratory classes. **(MANDATORY).**
2. Closed toe shoes (no sandals or canvas shoes) that are soft-soled, such as white leather-type tennis or similar shoes are strongly recommended.
3. Student's hair must be cleaned, neat, and conservative. The hair must be drawn back if longer than shoulder length or hanging in the face.
4. Fingernails must be kept clean and reasonable length of 1/8" above the fingertips.
5. Please limit jewelry to wedding rings and a wristwatch. No dangling chains, necklaces, or earrings are allowed. Conservative earlobe earrings (no more than one pair) 5mm in diameter are permitted.

Laboratory Safety:

Each student is responsible for his/her own work and for the cleaning of his/her workstation.

The following must be observed:

1. Eating or drinking will not be permitted in the laboratory. (That includes no gum chewing). Avoid putting objects in your mouth.
2. Do not attempt to adjust contact lenses in the lab.
3. Wash your hand before leaving the laboratory for any reason. Proper hand washing is essential. Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection. Hands must be washed before and after each patient contacts.

4. Disinfect work area thoroughly after each laboratory session.
5. Cover spills with paper towels, soak thoroughly with disinfectant and for 15 minutes before cleaning it up.
6. All accidents are to be reported immediately to the instructor.
7. OSHA guidelines for occupational exposure to blood borne pathogen standards must be observed.

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 solve problems, 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.

