Thank you for being so interested in the Medical Assisting Program. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, I am excited to tell you that Medical Assisting is one of the fastest-growing careers, projected to grow by 16% by 2031. (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-assistants.htm>)

Health care is constantly changing, as seen during the pandemic. We have seen the need for well-trained health workers who desire to continue to grow and learn and help others. You have chosen a fulfilling and life-sustaining career option.

There are four options in the MA program: two associate degrees and two certificate programs. There are three or four pre-requisites or courses you need to complete before your official entrance into the MA program: English 1010, placement testing into college-level math, IT 1090, and MA 1010 (Introduction to Medical Terminology) or MA 1020 (Medical Terminology I). \*\*Please note that if you are not continuing toward the associate degree, you do not need to take IT 1090.

Here is a list of health-related items to begin working on shortly:

1. If you have not completed the online Tri-C application, please do so now. It is a free application at this link: [www.tri-c.edu](http://www.tri-c.edu). Click Get Started.
2. If you have not completed the Health Career Sciences application, please do so now. It is a free application at this link:  <https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/medical-assisting/index.html>. Click Get Started.
3. The Health Requirements guide can be found here: [Tri-C Health Careers Student Compliance Resources: Cleveland, Ohio](https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/student-resources.html)
4. If you ***have not received your Hepatitis B series vaccination***, please begin it immediately. It is a series of three (3) injections. The first injection is followed by the second, one month after the first. The third injection is given five (5) months from the first. There is also a two-dose Hep B vaccination. It can take at least three months after that before blood titers (a blood test confirming immunity) can be drawn to see if you have antibodies against the disease. I cannot stress enough that you take care of this immediately, as this takes the most time. Health facilities will not take a student for a practicum (your capstone of the program) unless the student can show that this has been completed. Clinical sites now require blood tests (titers) confirming immunity to Hepatitis B, Varicella, and MMR. Documentation of vaccinations is not sufficient for those vaccinations.
5. You must also have a physical examination before your clinical placement. Due to the state of health care, you must schedule this as soon as possible, as many physician’s offices are scheduling months in advance. You should receive 2-step screenings for TB at least a week apart from each other. Students receiving only one TB screening will not be allowed to proceed through the program until this has been resolved unless you have documentation for annual TB screenings.
6. You must get a T-Dap injection (if you have not received one in the past ten years) and a flu vaccine (if in season). \*Please be aware that the flu vaccine is an annual injection; if you received it last year, you must have it again before practicum placement.
7. The health requirements are that every student needs to obtain blood tests, called “titers,” to prove immunity to the following:  Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Mumps, and Varicella (Chicken Pox). If your titer results return negative or equivocal, you must receive the immunizations (boosters) again.
8. Placement into your Medical Assisting externship (clinical rotations) depends upon completing the above requirements and all requirements in the MA Handbook, which will be distributed during the Medical Assisting Orientation.
9. There may be accommodations and waivers for COVID-19, FLU, and Hep B, but these must be coordinated between the clinical site/program staff/clinical compliance staff. Please see the Program Director if you require an accommodation and/or waiver.

I will email invitations to attend a MANDATORY Medical Assisting Orientation after the deadline to apply occurs. That is typically June 15 for the fall semester and November 15 for the spring semester. You can register for classes to begin after you attend the Orientation. You will receive more information with other programmatic-specific items at the MANDATORY Medical Assisting Orientation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to address any questions, concerns, or comments you may have. Our goal at Tri-C Medical Assisting is to educate you to your fullest potential. My goal will be to help you achieve that potential.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Elizabeth W. Regis, M.Ed., CMA (AAMA), BCPA

Program Director—Medical Assisting

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