

# 7 Reasons

# An Online Medical Assistant Certification Is Valuable To Pre-Health Students

Discover the Competitive Edge & Transform Your Career Aspirations into Achievements



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## INTRODUCTION

If you're considering a career in healthcare, becoming a certified clinical medical assistant (CCMA) is an effective way to make yourself stand out. Whether you're preparing for medical, PA, or nursing school; considering a career move into the medical field; or building a foundation for specialization, having this certification on your resume can set you up for a successful future.

In this eBook, we'll explore 7 compelling reasons why pursuing an online medical assistant certification is a smart choice. From expanding your job prospects and increasing your earning potential to gaining critical skills and expanding your network, each section takes a closer look at how this credential can help you along your career path. By the end, you'll have a clear understanding of how certification can accelerate your journey in healthcare and why it's worth considering as your next step.

## REASON #1

# INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There has never been a better time to begin a career as a CCMA. The demand for qualified professionals is steadily growing, driven by an increasing need for supportive healthcare roles as the general population ages and the range of medical services expands. This growth opens opportunities for anyone planning to enter the field, especially those who hold an official certification.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for medical assistants is projected to increase by 15% by 2033. This percentage translates to approximately 119,800 new job openings each year, which is significantly higher than the average growth rate across all professions. For pre-health students and career switchers alike, earning a CCMA certification can open doors to these opportunities and provide the kind of hands-on experience that strengthens applications.

### **Standing Out in a Competitive Job Market**

In a competitive job market, holding a CCMA certification can mean the difference between landing an interview and having your application get passed over. With this credential on your resume, you demonstrate your commitment to the profession as well as your readiness to handle both clinical and administrative duties. Furthermore, it shows employers that you've met specific educational and training standards, making you a more attractive choice when compared to uncertified applicants.

A CCMA certification isn't only a stepping stone for immediate job opportunities; it's a distinction that proves dedication to healthcare, reinforces knowledge of clinical practices, and builds a solid foundation for future career advancement. By choosing to pursue certification, you'll position yourself as a top candidate, ready to make a meaningful contribution to patient care.



## REASON #2

# ENHANCED EARNING POTENTIAL

In addition to increasing job prospects, having a CCMA certification on your resume boosts your earning potential from the outset.

In a 2023 report, the American Association of Medical Assistants found that certified medical assistants earn an average of \$21.64 per hour. This pay rate is approximately 4% higher than the average hourly wage of uncertified medical assistants (\$20.84), and over 7% higher than the national average across all medical assistants (\$20.19). By investing in certification, you'll position yourself for a higher starting salary, which translates to increased lifetime earnings. And when it comes to long-term earning potential, certified medical assistants are often prioritized for roles with greater responsibility, which can lead to additional raises or promotions over time.

It's worth noting that certification isn't the only factor that impacts how much you can make as a CCMA. Geographic location, the type of healthcare facility you work at, and the practice specialty you choose can also influence your pay. For example, medical assistants working in larger hospitals or specialized practices may earn higher wages than those in smaller or general practice settings. Similarly, working in major metropolitan centers often comes with higher pay rates compared to rural areas, due to variations in cost of living and demand for healthcare services.

## REASON #3

# SKILL DEVELOPMENT & KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

CCMA training equips you with clinical competencies and foundational knowledge you'll use throughout your medical career. To that end, certification courses are designed to cover a wide range of essential skills, including:

- **Patient Care:** This includes working directly with patients, from intake to assisting with exams.
- **Communication:** Clear, compassionate, and effective communication with both patients and colleagues is essential in any medical setting.
- **Laboratory and Diagnostic Techniques:** Many medical assistants spend time working in labs; knowing how to perform tests, prepare specimens, and follow diagnostic protocols is essential.
- **Cardiopulmonary Testing:** Cardiopulmonary testing skills, including administering electrocardiograms (EKG/ECG), are needed for diagnosing heart-related issues.
- **Human Anatomy, Physiology, and Principles of Disease:** A working knowledge of the human body and how it's impacted by disease provides a framework for a deeper understanding of patient conditions.
- **Healthcare Regulations and Medical Law Compliance:** A solid grasp of regulations and laws that govern the healthcare sector minimizes risks to both patients and healthcare organizations.
- **Pharmacology and Medication Administration:** An understanding of safe medication administration practices and how different medications interact with the body is imperative in clinical roles.

Not only does CCMA certification teach essential skills like these, it also shows future employers that you have a sound foundation of medical knowledge, the ability to carry out essential tasks, and a readiness to perform in a clinical environment. Certification programs, like ACT's online medical assistant training program, feature a well-rounded, expertly designed curriculum with opportunities to gain hands-on experience — ensuring that you'll possess the clinical skills and competence needed to make a positive impact from day one.

## REASON #4

# FLEXIBILITY & ACCESSIBILITY OF ONLINE LEARNING

For anyone juggling a busy schedule that includes multiple commitments, the flexibility that online certification courses offer puts career advancement goals within reach. ACT's CCMA training program is designed with this flexibility in mind, delivering an accessible course of study that can be completed from anywhere, on any device, at your own pace.

### Learn From Anywhere, on Your Own Time

One of the many benefits of enrolling in ACT's online CCMA program is the ability to learn from any place with an internet connection. If you're balancing coursework, a full-time job, family obligations, and other commitments, you likely don't have the time to commute to in-person classes. The mobility that our online courses affords means that you're free to study during the times (and in the places) that best suit your schedule.

### Self-Paced Learning

The CCMA program is fully self-paced, allowing you to work through the course material at your preferred speed. With focused effort, the course can be complete in as little as 8 weeks, offering a quick path to certification. If you'd rather take your time with the curriculum, you have as much time as needed to complete the course within the 12-month access period.

### Start Immediately

With no application or waiting periods, you're able to get to work immediately after enrollment. Our CCMA training course is designed to help you earn certification as quickly as possible, and with instant access to lessons, you can begin working toward your certification as soon as you're ready.

## 12 Months of Unlimited Access

ACT provides 12 months of unlimited access to instructional content, ensuring ample time to revisit modules, practice skills, and refresh your knowledge on any of the topics covered. This accessibility empowers you to take charge of your education and fully absorb the material in your own way.

## REASON #5

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW YOUR NETWORK

Even in a remote learning environment, online certification programs like ACT's provide unique opportunities to connect with like-minded peers, instructors, mentors, and the healthcare professionals you'll meet during externships. Making an effort to build this network can be invaluable for future job searches, professional growth, and long-term career development.

Here's how you can build your network with the connections you make:

### Connect With Fellow Students

ACT's CCMA training program includes access to a pre-health community where you can interact with others who share your goals and interests. Connecting with fellow students not only enriches your learning experience (think exchanging study tips, sharing experiences, and supporting each other's progress) but also helps build lasting professional relationships that could extend into your future healthcare career.



## Make the Most of Your Time With Your Instructors

ACT instructors are experienced healthcare professionals and educators who bring a wealth of industry knowledge to their courses. Engaging with instructors can help you form a better understanding of the healthcare field and lead to some of your first professional connections.

## Work With a Mentor

ACT offers mentorship programs that connect students with experienced healthcare professionals who can provide personalized guidance, answer questions, and help you navigate graduate school applications. Use the time during your mentorship to build a solid relationship with your mentor. By keeping in touch once the mentorship ends, you can extend the relationship into your professional life.

## Take Advantage of Externships

Externships present an opportunity to meet and work alongside other healthcare professionals. By choosing to complete an externship, you'll be able to make connections with people who can vouch for your clinical abilities, which can prove useful when looking for recommendations or job opportunities.





## REASON #6

# PATHWAY TO FURTHER EDUCATION & SPECIALIZATION

Becoming a CCMA is more than just a career milestone – it can also be a checkpoint in your progress toward more advanced healthcare roles. That’s because certification forms a solid base for professional growth, providing the tools and skills you need to excel in your future role as a medical assistant while opening doors for further education, specialization, and advancement in the medical field.

Here’s how:

### **It Helps Your Graduate School Applications Stand Out**

If you’re considering medical, PA, or nursing school, earning a CCMA certification can make all the difference when you apply. Certification demonstrates a strong commitment to healthcare; provides hands-on, clinical experience; and builds a thorough understanding of medical practices – all things admissions committees look for in top applicants.

## **It Can Open Doors to More Challenging Roles**

Certification is often a prerequisite for more advanced positions in healthcare, which means that with your CCMA credential it becomes easier to qualify for roles that involve greater responsibility, specialized tasks, or leadership. Additionally, employers are more likely to entrust certified individuals with a wider range of clinical duties, making it easier to gain the direct patient care experience needed for promotions.

## **It Can Help You Find Your Area of Specialization**

Depending on where you work, your role as a medical assistant can introduce you to a variety of clinical specialties, which can ultimately lead you to the ones you're most passionate about. By gaining hands-on experience in a variety of settings, you can explore potential pathways for more targeted training or further education.

# **REASON #7**

## **A COST-EFFECTIVE EDUCATION**

For many pre-health students, affordability is a key factor when choosing an educational path. Online certification courses offer a cost-effective solution, providing a high-quality education at a fraction of the cost of traditional programs. By opting for online learning, you can achieve your goals without the financial burden of university or community college tuition.

Speaking of tuition, online courses typically cost anywhere between \$1,500 and \$5,000, making them an attractive alternative. In contrast, medical assistant certifications at higher education institutions can set you back tens of thousands of dollars, with tuition, fees, and other expenses factored into the final cost. By choosing an online program, you can save money while earning the same widely recognized credential.

In addition to lower financial costs, online programs save you valuable time. For instance, ACT's online CCMA course can be completed in as little as 8 weeks. In comparison, traditional university or community college programs often take up to 2 years to complete. This quick turnaround makes it possible for you to enter the workforce, start gaining professional experience, and begin earning a salary while others are still completing their certification.

Plus, by choosing online certification, you'll also avoid incurring costs associated with housing or commuting to and from classes. By nature, self-paced online learning also provides the flexibility to work full-time while completing your program, further reducing the financial strain.

Above all though, a CCMA certification is a smart investment in your future – and by choosing an affordable and efficient online training program, you can take the first step toward a career in healthcare without overwhelming financial and time commitments.

## CONCLUSION

A CCMA certification is much more than just a credential – it's also a gateway to exciting opportunities in healthcare. From opening up professional doors and enhancing your earning potential to building skills and networks, the benefits of certification are clear and many.

If you're ready to take the next step in furthering your medical career, the team at ACT is here to help. Our expertly designed, 100% online CCMA certification course offers the flexibility, affordability, and comprehensive training you need to achieve your goals. Get in touch to learn more about the program, or if you're ready to get started, enroll today.

Your future in healthcare begins here.