

*Differences between Health Science Careers (NAC) and Medical Science Careers (MA)*

	<b>Health Science Careers (Nursing Assistant Certified)</b>	<b>Medical Science Careers (Medical Assistant)</b>
Environment	Nursing home or hospital	Doctor's office or hospital
Certificate/ Credits	(Nursing Assistant Certified) NAC Certificate, Up to 13 college credits	Leads to (Medical Assistant) MA certificate (4 more quarters of study for certificate) Up to 18 college credits
Supervision	Work under supervision of nurse	Work under supervision of doctor
Tasks	<p>Provide basic patient care. Perform duties, such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, move patients, change linens, monitor vital signs, collect specimens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer patients' call signals.</li> <li>• Turn and reposition bedridden patients.</li> <li>• Observe patients' conditions, measuring and recording food and liquid intake and output and vital signs, and report changes to professional staff.</li> <li>• Feed patients who are unable to feed themselves.</li> <li>• Provide patients with help walking, exercising, moving in/out of bed.</li> <li>• Provide patient care by supplying/ emptying bed pans, applying dressings, supervising exercise routines.</li> <li>• Bathe, groom, shave, dress, or drape patients to prepare them for surgery, treatment, or examination.</li> <li>• Transport patients to treatment units, using a wheelchair or stretcher.</li> <li>• Clean rooms and change linens.</li> <li>• Collect specimens such as urine, feces, or sputum.</li> </ul> <p>Other reported job titles: Certified Nurses Aide, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Patient Care Assistant (PCA), Patient Care Technician (PCT), Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Attendant, Hospital Assistant</p>	<p>Perform certain clinical and administrative duties. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding for insurance purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record patients' medical history, vital statistics and information such as test results in medical records.</li> <li>• Prepare treatment rooms for patient examinations, keeping the rooms neat and clean.</li> <li>• Interview patients to obtain medical information and measure their vital signs, weight, and height.</li> <li>• Authorize drug refills and provide prescription information to pharmacies.</li> <li>• Clean and sterilize instruments and dispose of contaminated supplies.</li> <li>• Prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician.</li> <li>• Show patients to examination rooms and prepare them for the physician.</li> <li>• Explain treatment procedures, medications, diets and physicians' instructions to patients.</li> <li>• Help physicians examine and treat patients, handing them instruments and materials or performing such tasks as giving injections or removing sutures.</li> <li>• Collect blood, tissue or other laboratory specimens, log the specimens, prepare them for testing.</li> </ul>
Employment outlook	Increasing by 21%	Increasing by 26%
Pay range	\$9.88 to 17.69/hour	\$12.34 to \$20.44/hour
Advancement	Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN)	Registered Nurse (RN), Medical Office Manager