



Bryant & Stratton College  
Medical Assisting Program Disclosure and Information Booklet  
Spring 2009

**Purpose**

The purpose of this booklet is to augment the information in the *Bryant and Stratton Official Catalog* and meet the AAMA and CAAHEP requirements for publications and disclosure. Detailed information can also be found in the *Student Guide* as well as the course syllabi. The three documents contain important information for understanding the requirements of the College and the AAMA. Please refer any questions or concerns relative to the content of these documents to your instructor, program director, and/or dean.

**American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics of the American Association of Medical Assistants shall set forth principles of ethical and moral conduct as they relate to the medical profession and the particular practice of medical assisting.

Members of AAMA dedicated to the conscientious pursuit of their profession, and thus desiring to merit the high regard of the entire medical profession and the respect of the general public which they serve, do pledge themselves to strive always to:

- A. Render service with full respect for the dignity of humanity;
- B. Respect confidential information obtained through employment unless legally authorized or required by responsible performance of duty to divulge such information;
- C. Uphold the honor and high principles of the profession and accept its disciplines;
- D. Seek to continually improve the knowledge and skills of medical assistants for the benefit of patients and professional colleagues;
- E. Participate in additional service activities aimed toward improving the health and well-being of the community.

**Competencies**

The goal of the educator is to assure student competency prior to internship placement. The AAMA used the results of latest available Occupational Analysis Study when developing competencies and curriculum. Course work is structured to meet all requirements from the MAERB Core Curriculum.

Students are expected to demonstrate safe and responsible medical assisting skills by completing all MA competencies at a satisfactory level. The student will be required to demonstrate safe and responsible medical assisting skills prior to internship placement. All AHLT courses must be completed prior to the scheduling of AHLT 260, Internship. See the *Bryant and Stratton Official Catalog*.



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The medical assisting administrative, clinical, laboratory, and pharmacology courses are competency-based and students are required to complete all competencies at a satisfactory level as outlined by the program to pass the courses.

### **Academic Calendar**

See the *Bryant & Stratton College Official Catalog*.

### **Confidentiality**

Patient confidentiality is a professional/ethical responsibility and is an expectation of all medical assisting students. Any information obtained through working with health records is, by law, confidential. All information discussed or available in class is confidential and may not be discussed outside of the classroom setting. Similarly, any discussion information obtained during internship in a healthcare setting which pertains to patients, physicians or instruction matters is also considered confidential. Students are asked to read and sign a confidentiality agreement. Students who violate confidentiality will face disciplinary actions as outlined in the *Bryant and Stratton Official Catalog*.

Examples of violations include but are not limited to, removal of any patient records that have possible identifiers, and any patient related discussion that may be overheard by lay persons or that occur in any location other than the immediate patient-care or classroom/learning environment.

### **Student Grievance Procedure**

See the *Bryant and Stratton Official Catalog*.

### **Medical Clinical/Laboratory and Safety**

Medical assisting students and faculty should be particularly aware of potential exposure to infectious agents in the campus laboratories and clinical areas when there is a reasonable expectation of exposure to body fluids. All students will wear personal protective equipment in the lab and clinical areas. This may include but is not limited to, gloves, mask with face shield, goggles, and fluid-proof lab gown/coat. A signed statement of informed consent will be required during AHLT 230 Medical Laboratory.

### **Incident Response & Reporting Procedures**

If you are exposed to any body fluid you must immediately take the following steps:

- Immediately report the incident/accident to the instructor or site supervisor.
- An incident/accident report will be completed
- Contact your family physician for further information and follow-up.

### **Immunizations & TB Screening**

Prior to student enrollment in AHLT 260, Internship, students need to provide documentation of immunizations or the TB tests if they are required by the clinical site.

Although Hepatitis B inoculations are not required by Bryant & Stratton College, students are strongly advised to receive the Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccine prior to their clinical courses and internship if they



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are not currently immunized. The vaccine is given in a series of three shots and is available through your private physician and health clinics.

**Criminal Background Check**

- Criminal records checks may be required by clinical facilities prior to hands-on care provided by students.
- Students are responsible for completing and paying for the background check, if required for the clinical setting.

**CPR (Adult/Child/ Infant) and First Aid**

Medical assisting students must present to the college proof of having completed and passed a professional-level Adult/Child CPR course sponsored by a recognized agency, such as the American Red Cross (ARC), the American Heart Association (AHA), or the National Safety Council (NSC). Documentation will be kept by the program director in the student's file. CPR training must be completed prior to AHLT 260, Internship.

First Aid training may be presented in class by the instructor. Documentation will be kept by the Program Director in the student's file.

**Professionalism**

All medical assistant students are expected to keep themselves neat, clean, and well groomed at all times. The appearance of a Bryant & Stratton College student is an important part of acting as a representative of the College. Anyone not conforming to this policy will be appropriately counseled.

***Good Grooming for the Health Care Setting***

In order to comply with infection control policies and enhance the comfort of his/her patients, the student must be clean, neat, and in compliance with the agency dress code when reporting for internship experiences.

**Criteria for Program Completion**

Medical assisting students must:

- Pass all courses with the minimum grade required.
- Earn 62 credits for the Associate Degree in Medical Assisting and meet all other applicable Bryant & Stratton College requirements. See the *Bryant and Stratton Official Catalog* for details.
- Complete graduation petitions during the final term of study. Petitions are available in the Academic Office. An administrative graduation fee is assessed for each student and covers the cost of caps and gowns.
- Take part in a Graduate Transitional Interview



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**AAMA CMA Boot Camp and Exam**

Medical Assisting students are expected to attend the CMA Boot Camp in preparation for the AAMA CMA exam. Boot camp is held during the last term of the program for students who are graduating. There is no additional charge for attendance at the boot camp. During the boot camp students have intensive review for the AAMA CMA exam. While the boot camp provides structured review time, students must take responsibility for additional study and preparation for the exam.

AAMA CMA exam applications and instructions will be distributed to all medical assisting students during their internship class in the last term. The Program Director will follow-up with individual students on an as needed basis. The College will forward the application and payment to the appropriate agency. There is no additional charge for the AAMA CMA exam for students. Students are expected to sit for the AAMA CMA exam, after participating in the boot camp.

Students convicted of a felony or have pled no contest to a crime cannot sit for the AAMA CMA examination according to the AAMA unless they request a special exemption. Students ineligible to take the AAMA CMA exam due to felony conviction will be counseled about the appeal process in place with the AAMA.

***Benefits of AAMA CMA Certification***

Employers advised us that certified prospective candidates for hiring have:

- Professional edge
- Greater prestige
- Competitive wages
- Better job security
- Greater career advancement opportunities
- Dedication to the profession



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**Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Communication**

Exposure to Hepatitis B virus constitutes a serious occupational health hazard to health care workers. A Hepatitis B infection is an unpredictable disease that may debilitate a person for weeks or months and can lead to serious complications such as cirrhosis, the need for a liver transplant, and/or death. Health care workers are at a greater risk of contracting the virus than the general public. Protection against the disease is available in the form of vaccination. The vaccine against Hepatitis B is prepared from recombinant yeast cultures and is free of association with human blood or blood products. Recommended groups for immunization include:

- Health care professionals providing direct patient care and who frequently handle blood and other bodily fluids.
- Laboratory staff in clinical labs or research labs handling blood/body fluids.

Students/trainees in the health care fields are strongly urged to complete the Hepatitis B vaccination series from their primary care provider prior to starting clinical/laboratory work.

By signing below, I \_\_\_\_\_ attest that,  
Print Student Name

I have read the Hepatitis B Virus Communication and the “Hepatitis B and Vaccine Fact Sheets (www.cdc.gov)” provided to me by the College on the first day of class. I also indicate that I have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction. I understand that as a student in the medical assisting program I have an increased risk of contracting this serious illness and that it can be prevented by the Hepatitis B vaccine. Please check one of the following statements:

- I decline to be vaccinated at this time. Although I may have exposure to Hepatitis B in the clinical/laboratory/internship setting, I wish to decline the vaccine at this time. I understand that as a consequence of my assignments and duties, I am at risk of contracting Hepatitis B, leading to potential long-term health problems and even death. Therefore, I am signing this waiver releasing Bryant & Stratton College, its Board Members, and personnel, and any clinical facility at which I train from any liability for any consequences to me or any claims arising out of or related to my decision to not be vaccinated.
- I have had the Hepatitis B vaccine, am known to be positive for the antibody to the core antigen for Hepatitis B and/or am seeking the vaccine through my private doctor or by a health care facility and I will provide proof by the end of Week 4 of the term in which I sit for AHLT 130, and AHLT 230 ; whichever class I take first in my program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Informed Consent  
Statement of Understanding and Agreement**

AHLT 230 Medical Laboratory & AHLT 260 Internship potentially involve blood collection procedures such as skin and venipuncture in class and at the internship site. Since these are invasive procedures, my participation in this class puts me at risk for contracting Hepatitis B, HIV, and/or other communicable diseases.

By signing below, I \_\_\_\_\_ attest that,

Print Student Name

1. I have read and understand the statement above and acknowledge the potential health risks of my participation.
2. I freely elect to participate in the skin and venipuncture labs.
3. I have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction.
4. I assert that I have read and agree to follow all lab rules and procedures listed in the instructor's supplemental syllabus for my protection and the protection of others.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Acknowledgement Statement  
For  
Medical Assisting Program Disclosure and Information Booklet**

I received a copy of the *Medical Assisting Program Disclosure and Information Booklet*. I read the information. If I have questions about the information in this booklet, I will discuss them with the Medical Program Director, an advisor or the Dean.

I recognize that the medical assisting program curriculum is competency based and that I have to successfully complete all designated competencies to pass the courses and to graduate.

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Student Signature

Date