

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A MEDICAL ASSISTING STUDENT  
PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STANDARDS\***

Medical Assisting students should possess and be able to demonstrate the following:

1. **Critical thinking:** critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example: student must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations' collect and analyze data to aid in problem solving; participate in the development of patient care.
2. **Interpersonal Skills:** interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. For example: student shall establish rapport with patients and health care team members.
3. **Communication Skills:** communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. For example: explains treatment procedures, reinforces health teaching, and documents patient care and patient responses.
4. **Mobility:** physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, stand and walk for extensive periods of time. For example: frequent trips from workstation to patients' rooms, moves around in patient's rooms, work spaces and treatment areas.
5. **Motor Skills:** gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care. For example: calibrate and use equipment, document care, position and move patients, administer cardiopulmonary procedures, and perform skill procedures.
6. **Hearing:** auditory ability, sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. For example: hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help.
7. **Visual:** visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in patient care. For example: observe patient responses, specimen color.
8. **Tactile:** tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. For example: perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, insertions of catheters, and taking pulses.
9. **Weight-Bearing:** ability to lift and manipulate/move 45-50 pounds daily. For example: position patient, move equipment.
10. **Cognitive Abilities:** ability to be oriented to time, place, and person; organize responsibilities, and make decisions. For example: student shall assess patient complaints, provide prioritized patient care, and implement appropriate plans.