

DISCOVERING QUALITY JOBS

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

WHAT ARE QUALITY JOBS?

Quality Jobs offer competitive wages and benefits, predictable hours, and opportunities for advancement without requiring a college degree. They exist in high-growth industries that value skills gained through alternative routes such as training programs, military service, lived experience, and more.

WHAT ARE MEDICAL ASSISTANTS?

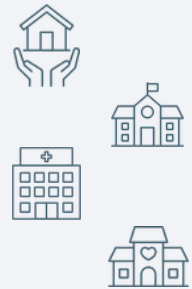
Medical Assistants perform direct patient care and administrative tasks as directed by a physician or registered nurse. Duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, taking vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examinations, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by a physician.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS JOB IF YOU ARE:

- A clear communicator with strong documentation skills.
- Empathetic towards people who are ill or in pain.
- Calm, respectful, and supportive with strangers.
- Comfortable working in a fast-paced environment.
- Able to take instructions and follow through reliably.

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS WORK AT:

Hospitals
Clinics
Dental Offices
Long-Term Care Facilities
Urgent Care Facilities
Emergency Rooms
Pediatrics
Specialist Facilities



THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS:

Clinical Medical Assistant
Medical Office Assistant
Clinical Support Specialist
Primary Care Assistant

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY JOB:



Living Wages: Starting pay for medical assistants is **\$21–24 per hour**. Many employers pay more for certified and experienced medical assistants.



Accessible Hiring Practices: **No degree or prior experience required.** Many employers offer multilingual hiring and onboarding materials to cover healthcare practices and HIPAA requirements.



Comprehensive Benefits: Many employers offer a full benefit package, including medical, dental, vision, paid time off, and retirement savings, which can **increase your total compensation by up to 30%**.



Training and Advancement Opportunities: **Employers offer ongoing training, continuing education, and credentialing support**, along with opportunities to advance into specialized or advanced clinical roles.

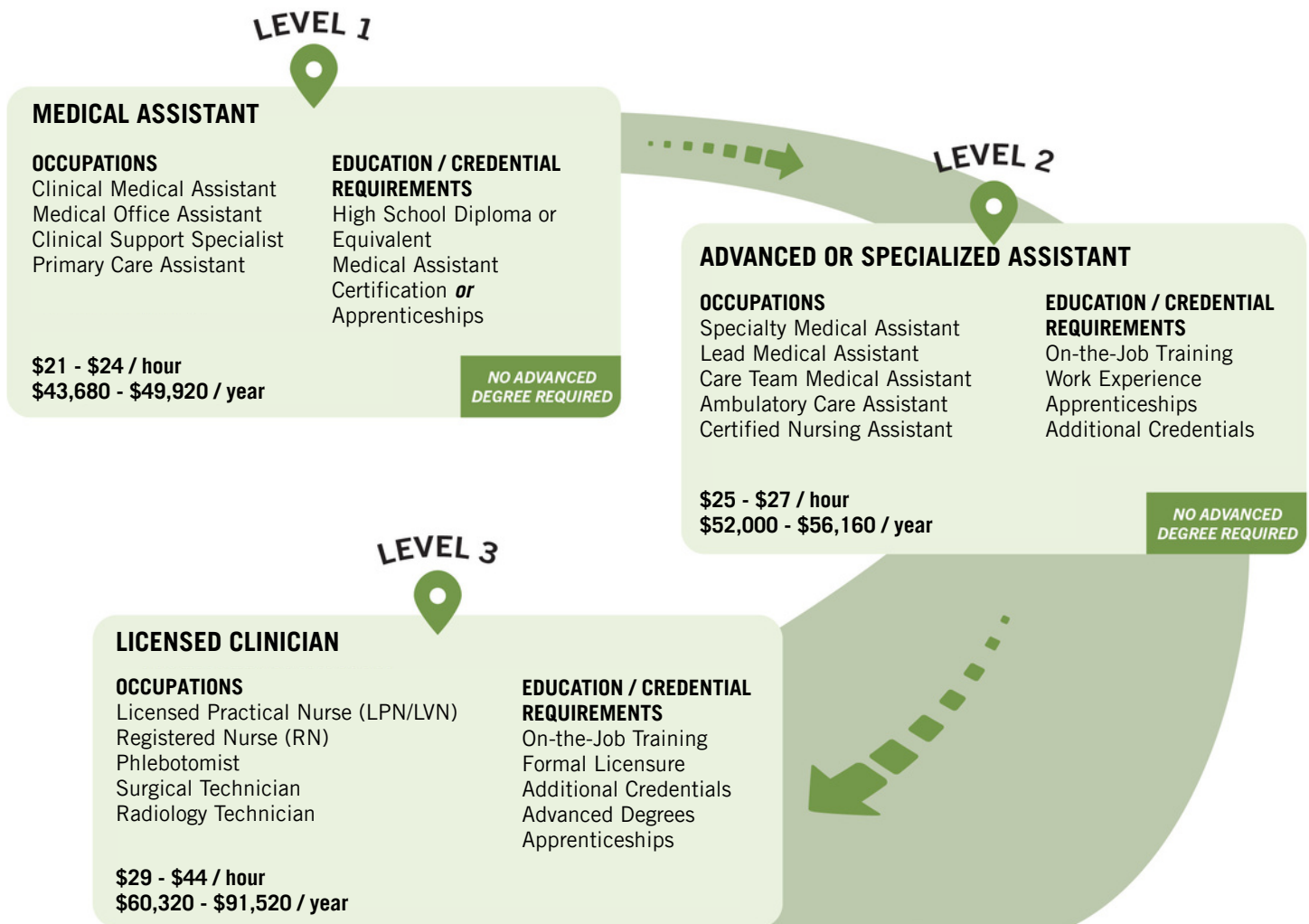


Predictable Schedule: **Schedules vary by employer and setting.** Many employers operate 24/7, offering steady, flexible hours, compressed work weeks, and additional overtime opportunities.



Worker Safety and Engagement: **Highly regulated healthcare settings with strong safety standards**, standardized infection control and safety protocols, and clear channels for worker input and concerns.

CAREER PATHWAYS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANTS



COMMON QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 years or older
- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Ability to pass a background check
- Additional qualifications based on employer or job

INSIDER TIPS:

- Get hands-on clinical experience through externships, volunteering, entry-level medical reception or front desk roles to build skills and get experience.
- Hospitals and public-sector role offer higher wages and better benefits.
- Customize your resume for healthcare employers, and show how skills from past, unrelated jobs still apply.



GET STARTED

CONNECT WITH A WORKSOURCE REP

Talk to your career coach or get in touch with a WorkSource representative today at [worksourceportlandmetro.org](https://www.worksourceportlandmetro.org).

GET A HEAD START

WorkSource offers scholarships for training and certification. Learn more about applying by attending a free virtual info session.

Visit [worksourceportlandmetro.org/events](https://www.worksourceportlandmetro.org/events) to register.

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