

Lanier Technical College
Medical Assisting Program
Occupational Risk for Medical Assistants

Medical Assistants are multifaceted employees who are trained to deliver healthcare in both the administrative and clinical areas of a physician's office, outpatient clinics, and a variety of locations that offer healthcare.

Medical Assistants work directly with providers and patients and their goal is to provide safe environments for both the patient and their healthcare team while providing excellent healthcare.

There are certain occupational risks or hazards one must consider before choosing a career in medical assisting, including the following:

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries (needle stick)
- Blood-borne pathogens and biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Latex allergies
- Stress
- Repetitive stress disorders and hazards from lifting and sitting

However, there are protections and standards set in place by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and these protections are of great importance while working in a healthcare environment. OSHA has standards in place to protect both the healthcare worker and patient.

At Lanier Technical College, medical assisting students are required to study both OSHA standards and participate in a Blood-borne pathogen training session during Skills I MAST 1080. Upon completion of the program, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the proper protocols necessary to ensure a workplace culture that prioritizes safety.