

Ophthalmic Assistant Certificate

Begin your career in the field of vision healthcare as an ophthalmic assistant, specializing in the anatomy, function and diseases of the eye. MCCC's ophthalmic assistant certificate program will provide you with the training you'll need to work with ophthalmologists, assisting with eye exams and providing patient education to people of all ages, including children and the elderly. As an ophthalmic assistant, you'll also be responsible for taking a patient's general medical and ophthalmic history and basic measurements of the eye, testing ocular functions and verifying eye glass prescriptions.

This non-credit program includes both classroom and hands-on clinical experience. The last four weeks of the program will be dedicated to supervised, hands-on experience working directly with doctors, technicians and patients. You'll receive valuable on-the-job training by performing examinations and specialized testing such as auto refraction (A/R), Heidelberg Retina Tomograph (HRT) and Humphrey Visual Fields. A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who successfully complete this 10-week, 400 hour program, which also includes CPR certification, regular written examinations and periodic performance evaluations. In addition, this program will provide you with the foundation for advancement to become a certified ophthalmic assistant (COA), a career with expanded job duties and responsibilities that could include positions such as ophthalmic photographer or surgical assistant, as well as a higher salary. To be eligible for the examination to become a COA, you must also acquire a minimum of six months supervised work experience in the field of ophthalmology. The minimum requirements to be accepted into the ophthalmic assistant certificate program include:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Minimum of a high school diploma or GED (transcripts required)
- Ability to stand or walk for long periods of time as well as be able to move and lift as required
- Achieve minimum COMPASS assessment scores of 75 in reading, 53 in math (pre-algebra) and 55 in writing
- Pass a nationwide criminal background check (at your expense--\$37)
- Complete a physical examination (at your expense)
- Complete and submit program application

Class size is limited. Classroom instruction and clinical experience will be conducted at Reed Vision Associates, P.C., located at 1180 N. Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan.
CEUs: 40.0