

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT

GATEWAYCC.EDU/OPHTHALMIC-ASSISTANT

[INFORMATION PACKET]



HEALTH SCIENCES



GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.

For the latest information on programs, graduation rates and other important consumer information, please visit our website at gatewaycc.edu

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Student,

Welcome to GateWay Community College! We are excited that you have chosen to partner with us in your education. To begin your enrollment process, you will be required to complete several pre-admission criteria which are outlined in this packet. These criteria can often take students several weeks to complete, therefore we recommend that you begin to work on this right away to prevent any delays in enrollment. To help you move through these steps as quickly as possible, you should work on multiple criteria simultaneously. Additionally, please take careful consideration to read all pages of this packet in its entirety as it contains valuable information that will help to answer questions you may have.

In order not to delay enrollment, students will need to work closely with the Advisors and Health and Safety Coordinator to complete all necessary requirements for their program. Once students have completed the pre-admission criteria, they will need to make an appointment with the Advisor to enroll into the program. Once enrolled, a program representative will contact students via email with an invitation to the mandatory student orientation. In order to ensure that you receive this notification, all student contact information must be accurate and updated in the Student Service Center located at <https://www.maricopa.edu/students>. Students will be required to purchase the Criminal Background Check. Students will be expected to come prepared to pay for the criminal background check on the first day of class.

Again, thank you for partnering with us in your education. Should you have questions at any time during this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance. We are here to help you succeed!

Sincerely,
The Healthcare Team

College Website: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu>

Ophthalmic Program Website: <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/degrees-certificates/ophthalmic-medical-assistant>

College Advising: gatewaycc.edu/advising; 602-286-8600; advisor@gatewaycc.edu

Dean: Dr. Lora Timmons; lora.timmons@gatewaycc.edu

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Overview

At GateWay, we take the most direct path to help you land your dream career. With our clock programs, you can earn a certification in your desired field in as little as six months. You will learn by doing and receive hands-on training from industry professionals.

Our knowledgeable instructors and state-of-the-art facilities help ensure you will have the skills you need to save a life, create a style, reduce other's stress, build a shelter, machine future technologies, and so much more.

Ophthalmic Medical Assistant

The human eye is a fascinating and sensitive organ. Several subspecialists help care for the eye, and our Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program will help you move freely between them all. As an essential member of the ophthalmic health care team, you will assist in the effort to prevent, detect, diagnose, and manage conditions that can interfere with one of our most precious senses: sight. The Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program serves as a pathway to an excellent job with lifelong opportunities and continuing education.

In this program, you will be taught the skills and knowledge needed to work efficiently in a clinical setting and side by side with an ophthalmologist. You will have direct exposure to the industry with our 120-hour externship, field trips, guest speakers, and a cow eye dissection led by our instructor. The Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program prepares you for certification as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) through the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), which is recognized internationally.

Take the first step in your career as an ophthalmic medical assistant. Start your journey today.

Visit [Ophthalmic Medical Assistant | GateWay Community College](#) for more information.

PRE-ADMISSION CRITERIA

Information Sessions

For more information on your program of interest, please attend one of the virtual information sessions. Participation in virtual information sessions is required (for some programs) and strongly suggested before enrollment. ***Participation in an information session prior to contacting an Advisor is highly recommended.***

Attend a Virtual Information Session:

Visit <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/virtual-sessions> to register for a virtual information session:

To meet the advisor for the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant program use the online scheduling tool listed below:

- Self-schedule an appointment with advisor **Debra Phillips**
<https://maricopa.craniumcafe.com/group/clock-hour-advisors-/scheduler> (Debra Phillips
phillipsdm@gatewaycc.edu)
- Email advising: advisor@gatewaycc.edu
- Or call the Front Desk (602) 392-5401

For a complete listing of Clock Enrollment Steps, visit gatewaycc.edu/enroll/clock-enrollment-steps.

Instructor Meet and Greet

Join us in-person every Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at [SouthWest Skill Center](#) for a chance to meet with the instructors and learn more about the program!

- Check-in at the Southwest Skill Center Front Desk when you arrive.
- Please arrive early. Arrival more than 5 minutes late will result in not being permitted to attend.
- Sessions are not held when GateWay is closed for a holiday.

Please [click here](#) to pre-register.

Apply for Program

If you are just starting college or new to Maricopa Community Colleges, or you already have an account and need to complete an application, reapply visit www.gatewaycc.edu and follow the directions below to apply for the program.

- Select “Apply Now” at the top of the page, in the banner.
- New Students click “New Student” and follow prompts
- Prior MCCCDC Students click “Returning Student” and login. If you cannot remember your MEID and password, click “Forgot your Username?” and/or “Forgot your Password?” for assistance.

Application:

Enter/Verify Current Information	
Primary College of Interest	GateWay Community College
Field of Interest	Health Sciences
Primary Reason for Attending:	Get a Certificate
Select a Plan	Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (CER)
Select Expected Start	Select Academic Year

Please contact Enrollment Services at (602) 286-8200 if assistance is needed.

PRE-ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

Assessment and Placement Information

Student assessment helps us put you in the appropriate college classes in English, math, reading, or English as a Second Language (ESL) so you have a solid start to your educational career. At Maricopa Community Colleges, we use multiple measures like your high school GPA, GED scores, or college entrance exam scores, such as the ACT or SAT. We also provide placement testing through the EdReady online placement tool. And, we have placement information and options if you are a student in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

Visit <https://www.maricopa.edu/students/assessment-placement> for more information.

To reach the Testing and Essential Skills Center visit <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/testing>, email testing@gatewaycc.edu, or call (602) 286-8160.

Reading Placement (need one of the following)

- High School GPA 3.0-4.0
- EdReady Critical Reading Score of 90 or above
 - <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/testing>
- ACT Reading Score of 22 or higher
- ACCUPLACER Next Gen Reading: 249 or higher
- ACCUPLACER Classic Reading: 92 or higher
- ASSET Reading†: 47 or higher
- COMPASS Reading†: 91 or higher
- HS GPA: 3.0 or higher
- ACT Reading Score: 22 or higher
- GED Reasoning Through Language Arts Score: 175 or higher
- SAT – Reading & Writing Score:
 - Old Version (Prior to 2016): 860 or higher
 - New Version (2016 - Current): 480 or higher

Request Enrollment

Using your Maricopa Student Email address, email an enrollment request to:

<mailto:clockenroll@gatewaycc.edu>

In your email, be sure to include:

- Program name and desired start date
- The funding source you intend to use to pay for your classes (self-pay, FAFSA, VA benefits, etc.)

Enrollment is based on eligibility, completed documents, and space in the program.

Financial Aid Eligible Programs

A student's goal of attaining higher education shouldn't be out of reach because of cost. GateWay Community College Financial Aid Office's goal is to provide resources for students to find the funding needed to help pay for their educational expenses, including tuition, fees, and books.

Apply for Financial Aid (if this is the method you plan to use to pay for your program)

- If applying for Financial Aid; visit the following website: www.fafsa.gov
- Use Gateway school code: E00701 (Clock Hour Programs)
- For Financial Aid assistance please call (602) 286-8117 or email finaid@gatewaycc.edu

Note: Confirm that all of the “To Do” items on MCCCDC Student Center have been completed and cleared in order to be eligible to be awarded for financial aid.

It is suggested that you are enrolled prior to applying for Financial Aid. Financial Aid can take up to 2-4 weeks to be processed. You will be required to have Financial Aid in place at a minimum of two weeks before your program begins. If your Financial Aid package is not complete you will be required to set up a payment plan until your package is ready. Please see [Payment Options](#) for information on paying for your program.

For additional information, visit <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/pay-college/financial-aid> and/or <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/pay-college/financial-aid/financial-aid-faqs>.

POST-ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

Health and Safety Documents

MCCCD has reviewed the clinical requirements for each clinical agency for which there is a clinical contract. In order for our students to meet ALL requirements for ALL agencies, we have chosen the most restrictive required to adapt as our own. By doing so, every student regardless of their clinic placement will meet the pre-clinical requirements of that agency.

<https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/healthcare-education/health-safety-requirements>

Externship Compliance Requirements and Online Portals

Externship placement is dependent upon site availability and students do not have the option of choosing the site. Externship locations/hours vary and are not guaranteed to reflect the classroom days and times. Traveling throughout the greater Phoenix area may be required. Externships cannot be changed once selected. Reliable transportation is a must as 100% attendance is required to complete your externship.

Establish Account with American Databank (ADB).

For instructions on establishing your account, please contact your Health and Safety Coordinator:

- Misty Martinez: mail to: misty.martinez@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 392-5368.

The following documents will need to be uploaded into ADB:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider CPR Certification
 - Certification must have hands on component
- Physician Clearance Form
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- TDaP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- Influenza (flu)
- Two Step TB (tuberculosis)
- Hep B Series (hepatitis B)
- Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card
- Complete Criminal Background Check
 - **IMPORTANT:** Do not order the background check until directed to do so by the instructor and/or Health and Safety Coordinator.

Please reach out to Misty for information regarding the timeline expectations for uploading documents.

Externship locations/hours vary and are not guaranteed to reflect the classroom days and times.

Externship placement is dependent upon site availability and students do not have the option of choosing which site they want to go to. Traveling throughout the greater Phoenix area may be required. Students will be required to secure reliable transportation as 100% attendance is required to complete your externship. Externship location **CANNOT** be changed once selected. Refusal to accept or attend the selected site location could result in withdrawal from the program, which will also result in a failure to complete the program. A certificate of completion will not be awarded.

Uniforms and Professional Appearance

- Students are required to wear GWCC Ophthalmic Medical Assistant Program Logo, steel gray colored scrub tops and matching scrub pants/skirt.
 - For uniform orders: Apparel Pro USA website:
 - [Skills Center Students - Gateway Skills Center - Apparel Pro Health Care Wear](#)
- Shoes must be closed toe.
- Hair is required to be of a natural color.
- No visible body piercings.
- Tattoos may need to be covered during clinical rotations.
- Nails must be clean and trimmed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Program Costs *

REQUIRED TUITION AND FEES

PROGRAM TUITION AND FEES	Ophthalmic Medical Assisting
Registration Fee	\$ 15.00
Tuition Clock Hour	\$ 3,030.00
Course Fees	\$ 177.00
TOTAL Tuition & Fees	\$ 3,222.00

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ESTIMATED COST

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	ESTIMATED COST
Uniform (approx. cost per uniform)	\$35.00+
American Databank – Immunization Tracker	\$10.00
Physical Exam-Medical Clearance (varies depending on insurance, copay and deductibles)	\$0.00 - \$50.00
Immunizations (varies depending on insurance, copay and deductibles)	\$0.00 - \$200.00
Criminal Background Check (done while in program)	\$59.00
Urine Drug Screen (done in program before clinical externship)	\$57.00
Level-One Fingerprint Clearance Card	\$75.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider CPR Card	\$50.00
Certification Exam – COA	\$300.00
<p>This exam is optional. Certification is not required to work as an Ophthalmic Medical Assistant in Arizona. You will be eligible to take this exam after 6 months of work experience after completion of this program.</p>	

****Please note that these are only estimates and may change. Additional fees may apply.***

Payment Options

Once you register for your classes, you will need to pay your tuition. There is no single best way to pay your tuition, but knowing your options will help you create a plan that works best for you.

Take action early if you plan to apply for financial aid or need to set up a payment plan. Be sure to monitor your Maricopa student email and Student Center regularly for new payment balances, due dates, and other updates, such as financial aid awards.

Students are responsible for the total program cost, which includes tuition and fees, out-of-pocket expenses, and any additional expenses associated with this program. Each student is expected to secure sufficient financial aid or Agency funding for their tuition and fees, and/or establish a payment plan during their enrollment.

We understand that the process of paying for college involves many steps. Because tuition & fees are due before classes start, we have compiled the following list of payment methods now accepted by the College.

Please Note: You will not be able to obtain your certification until your tuition & fees are paid in full.

For payment options and timeframes, visit <https://bit.ly/GWCCWaysToPay>

Scholarship Information and Alternate Funding Sources

- Visit <https://www.mcccd.org/scholarships/> for more information
- For details regarding scholarship opportunities, please visit <https://www.gatewaycc.edu/scholarships>

What you should know about payment plans:

- This is not a loan program
- No interest or finance charges will be assessed
- No credit check
- Down payment is required
- Divides payments over time period

Contact Student Business Services for details at (602) 238-4347 or (602) 286-8277, as payment plans differ depending on the program.

- 10% down payment due 30 days prior to start date
 - 1 – 6 scheduled payments require 10% down payment plus \$25 enrollment fee*
 - 7 – 12 scheduled payments require 10% down payment plus \$45 enrollment fee*

Payment Plans must be set up online through your Student Center. All payment options require an immediate (same-day) down payment. If you choose to sign-up for the payment plan, please do so before your tuition due date, otherwise, your classes may be dropped.

* Nelnet payment plan enrollment fee is non-refundable

You May Pay Your Tuition & Fees By:

- Automatic Bank Payment (ACH) - This is a pre-approved bank-to-bank transfer of funds from your checking or savings account, processed on the 5th of each month until your balance is paid in full within your enrollment period.
- Credit Card - Monthly payments will be automatically charged to your credit card, processed by American Card Services, Inc. on the 5th of each month until the balance is paid in full within your enrollment period. eCashier registration is available online with this option

Use this link to pay for College gatewaycc.edu/pay-college

Your Financial Account

- For your convenience, you can view your financial account activity in your Student Center located at [Students | Maricopa Community Colleges](#)
- Credit/debit payments can be made online through MCCCCD Student Center, in person at Student Business Services Department, or over the phone at (602) 238-4347 or (602) 286-8277
- Cash/check payment can be made in person at the Student Business Services Department (Check website for hours).

Payment Reminders

If you applied for and received financial aid, please check your student center to determine if you have any To Do List items as this may prolong being Awarded.

- Students unable to secure financial aid prior to their start date will be required to utilize a payment plan or third-party funding source.
- Your seat will not be secured until you have verified funding for your program. Failure to secure your seat by your due date may result in a drop from your program for Non Payment.
- Continued enrollment in the program is contingent upon the ability to secure tuition funding. Students who do not adhere to tuition payment guidelines will be withdrawn from the program.
- Students who are withdrawn prior to the program start date due to failure to comply with tuition payment guidelines will void their seat in class and it will be given to the next student in line who is on the waitlist.

Refund Policy

Students who officially withdraw from classes within the withdrawal deadlines listed below will receive a 100% refund for tuition, course and registration fees. Deadlines that fall on a weekend or a college holiday will advance to the next college workday except for classes fewer than 10 calendar days in length or as specified by the college. Calendar days include weekdays and weekends. Refer to individual colleges for withdrawal and refund processes. Never attending is not an allowable refund exemption or an excuse of the debt incurred through registration.

Length of Class	Official Withdrawal Deadlines for 100% Refund
1-9 calendar days	Prior to the class start date
10-19 calendar days	1 calendar day including the class start date
20-29 calendar days	2 calendar days including the class start date
30-39 calendar days	3 calendar days including the class start date
40-49 calendar days	4 calendar days including the class start date
50-59 calendar days	5 calendar days including the class start date
60-69 calendar days	6 calendar days including the class start date
70+ calendar days	7 calendar days including the class start date

** Course fees will be refunded only if the student qualifies for a 100% refund. Debts owed to any MCCCDC college must be satisfied before any refunds are paid to the student. Refunds for students receiving federal financial assistance are subject to federal guidelines. Requests for exceptions to the refund policy must be filed within one year from the semester in which the course was taken.*

Visit this webpage for additional information:

<https://www.maricopa.edu/students/tuition-payment-information/student-refunds>

How to Obtain a Refund

When dropping classes, you must officially do so during the refund period to be eligible for a refund. You can do this online using your Online Student Center or in person at your college's Admissions, Records, and Registration office.

Once you have officially dropped from your classes, and if you are eligible for a refund, you must contact Student Business Services at your college to receive your refund.

Student Business Service processes all refunds. All refunds of cash, check, and checking/saving payment plan payments are issued through the Maricopa Student Refund Program (MSRP). No refunds of cash are available. Refunds of credit card payments will be made only to the credit card on which the original payment was processed.

To ensure you receive your refund as quickly as possible, make sure your current address is correct, and update it if necessary in your Student Center in the Personal Information section.

If financial aid was used to pay your tuition, you may receive a refund via your selected refund method for any funds remaining after your tuition, fees, and other charges have been paid.

Click this link for additional information:

<https://www.maricopa.edu/students/tuition-payment-information/student-refunds>

Disability Resources

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class or program must contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at Gateway at (602) 286-8171. The Director of Disability Resources, Learning, & Testing Services is responsible for determining a student's eligibility for services and will notify the faculty in writing of the accommodations requested. During the first class session, faculty members shall announce that students may meet with them during office hours if they need special accommodations for a disability. If you have a question or concern, please contact the DRC.

gatewaycc.edu/disability-resources | email: disability.services@gatewaycc.edu | 602-286-8171

Medical Marijuana Policy

Maricopa Community Colleges prohibit the possession and use of marijuana on all campuses and in all off-campus student activities, including clinical externship and clinical learning experiences in health programs. This policy is dictated by Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-108, which prohibits any person, including a medical marijuana cardholder, from possessing or using marijuana on the campus of any public university, college, community college or post-secondary education institution. Federal legislation prohibits any institution of higher education that receives federal funding from allowing the possession and use of marijuana.

Maricopa Community Colleges receive federal funds through grants and financial aid. Maricopa Community Colleges continue to enforce current policies regarding controlled substances and any student or employee who violates university policy prohibiting the use or possession of illegal drugs on campus or in student activities - including educational externship - will be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

Urine drug screens are required of students prior to attending healthcare clinical externship. Medical marijuana, or its metabolite, is not an accepted substance in urine drug screens and will result in a positive urine drug screen. Students with a prescription for medical marijuana would not be considered exempt from urine drug screening.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation, age, or Vietnam era/disabled Veteran status in employment or in the application, admission, participation, access and treatment of persons in instructional or employment programs and activities.

Notice

GateWay Community College reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, pricing, information, curriculum requirements, and regulations stated in this publication