

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

DATA-BASED DECISIONS:

Based on the initial test scores from the past Medical Assistant program graduates from Blanding and the overall ratings from clinical site preceptors, it was decided to close the program for one year to allow us the opportunity to re-evaluate curriculum and re-evaluate the program with regards to national certifying standards. New curriculum was adopted and a lead instructor was hired with years of experience in teaching medical assistants. She served as a mentor to the new instructors that were hired for the programs on the Blanding and Moab campuses. The first year, she broadcast lectures to the other campuses for students as well as new instructors so that they could familiarize themselves with the curriculum and feel comfortable in their new roles.

Once the programs were reopened, test scores were analyzed from the previous graduates who had taken the National Certifying Exam which allowed us to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses. Once this was determined, we concentrated on developing a more in-depth curriculum to focus on those areas of weakness. This resulted in adding more curriculum in the areas of pharmacology, pathophysiology and phlebotomy.

The changes that were implemented with regards to the curriculum changes have resulted in higher test scores with all of our examinees passing well above the national average.

Another change that we have initiated this semester is to have our Medical Assisting students complete all didactic class work before entering into the clinical preceptor setting. They are also tested on all required skills and must pass all skills exams with 84% to be allowed into the clinical setting. In this way, we are assured that students have learned all skills necessary to act as well-prepared, confident and competent medical assistant students.

Finally, we had decided that having our health professions programs become accredited should be the next step in delivering quality programs. We have started the process of accreditation through Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and we are presently awaiting our preliminary site visit. We are hoping to have the Price and Blanding Medical Assistant Programs accredited this year.