

Certification Type	Certifying Body	State vs. National Credentialing	Certification Components	Average Length	Core Duties
Medical Assistant (MA)	These organizations below issue nationally recognized credentials: - American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) - National Healthcareer Association (NHA) - American Medical Technologists (AMT)	National certification (no state licensure)	Accredited MA education pathway National certification exam CE / recertification cycle	9–12 months (certificate/diploma)	• Take vital signs • Prepare patients for exams • Assist with procedures • Administer medications as permitted • Perform EKGs and specimen collection • Infection control • Clinical documentation • Administrative tasks
Patient Care Tech (PCT)	No single licensing board for PCTs. Recognized certifying authorities: National Healthcareer Association (NHA) American Medical Technologists (AMT)	National certification (state requirements vary)	Approved training or experience pathway National exam CE / renewal requirements	8–20 weeks (often CNA-based or hospital-aligned programs)	• Monitor vital signs • Assist with mobility and personal care • Basic nursing support • Specimen collection (if certified) • EKGs (if certified) • Observe and report changes
Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)	*CNA certification is state regulated -State Boards of Nursing/ State Departments of Health. Each state has its own approved registry and exam process. Reciprocity exists so many times filling out paperwork and paying a fee can transfer your certification state to state	State credentialing only	State-approved training program Written/oral exam Skills competency exam Apply for state licensure	4–12 weeks (state-mandated minimum hours)	• Assist with activities of daily living • Take vital signs • Reposition and transfer patients • Observe and report condition changes • Hygiene and comfort care • Infection control

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) – primary credentialing organization	National certification + state licensure	Approved EMT education program National cognitive exam Psychomotor competency verification Apply for state licensure (can include background check and fingerprinting) CE / recertification	3–6 months and	• Patient assessment • Airway, breathing, circulation management • - CPR/AED • Trauma and medical emergency care • - Emergency medications • Patient transport • - Documentation
Phlebotomy	Common national certification bodies for phlebotomy: National Healthcareer Association (NHA) American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification – widely regarded as the “gold standard” American Medical Technologists (AMT)	National certification (some states add requirements)	Training/experience required blood draws national exam CE	4–12 weeks (classroom + supervised blood draws)	• Venipuncture and capillary draws • - Patient identification • Specimen labeling and processing • - Sterile technique • - Monitor patient reactions • - Documentation

***Please use the information in the chart above as a guide. It is important to reach out and confirm how and where you can use your certification.**

***You can earn clinical hours through volunteering at hospice facilities, free clinics, community health organizations, nursing homes, rehab facilities etc**

Compliance Notes

- Time ranges reflect minimums and typical pathways recognized by certifying bodies; accelerated or academic formats may vary.
- State law always supersedes certification scope, particularly for CNA and EMT.
- Some duties require additional authorization or documented competencies beyond base certification.