

Quick Guide to Applying to the Certified Medical Assistant to Practical Nursing Bridge Program

Step 1: Take and pass the HESI® Entrance Exam.

- Schedule your exam early to make sure you find a date/location that works for you:
- Be aware of the deadline for your preferred class time/location (see next page).**
- Even if you pass (all portions of the exam completed within the 3 hour time limit and at least a 70 on Reading AND 70 on Math AND 70 Anatomy & Physiology), you may want to retake it twice within a trimester if your score is low. **Not everyone who meets the minimum qualifications is accepted into the class. Acceptance is based on the point system located on the next page.**



Scan here to schedule your testing

Step 2: Upon passing the Entrance Exam, you will receive a packet with detailed directions for completing the required steps. Make sure you check your emails in case admissions need to get in touch with you!!

- Complete the **application packet** and return it to the Jackson Campus.
- Complete an **online application to TCAT Jackson** for the appropriate term/program.
- Complete the **FAFSA** to apply for financial aid.
- Submit current, **unexpired** state issued ID
- Submit an **OFFICIAL copy of your FINAL high school, GED®, or HiSet® transcript(s), along with any other transcripts/certifications noted on the next page (i.e. CNA certification).**
- Submit **proof of Medical Assistant Certification from a Nationally Recognized Accrediting body (such as, but not limited to, NCCT, NHA, etc).**
- Submit **proof of current CPR certification from National Red Cross or American Heart Association.**
- Submit verification of immunity to the following:
 - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer
 - Varicella** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer

Step 3: Decision letters will be sent out approximately 3 days after the deadline. Letters will be sent only to those who have completed their applications (see Step 2). The **MANDATORY ORIENTATION** is currently scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Step 4: If you are accepted into the program, you will be given directions for completing the following:

- Mandatory Orientation** – The date/time will be provided in the Acceptance Letter. This is a full day of MANDATORY orientation.
- Acceptance (or declination) of your spot**
- Background Check** – **If the background check shows a criminal history or other offenses, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to complete clinicals and, therefore, complete the program.**
- Physical including**
 - Additional Vaccination Documentation** (in addition to MMR and varicella):
Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and/or **Td booster** within the last 10 years
Hepatitis B – full vaccine series or positive titer
Negative TB test within 6 months of program start date
Annual influenza vaccination or declination will be due depending on program start date.

Point System for Certified Medical Assistant to Practical Nursing Bridge Program Admission

REQUIRED HESI® EXAMS

POINTS EARNED

Note: Reading, Math, A & P and Critical Thinking portions must ALL be completed within the 3-hour time limit. Reading, Math, and A&P must be passed with a minimum score of 70 on each portion on the SAME attempt (no super-scoring) in order to be eligible to apply for the program.

HESI® Reading Score _____

HESI® Anatomy & Physiology Score _____

HESI® Math Score _____

BONUS POINTS

HESI® Critical Thinking Score _____

The Critical Thinking portion of the HESI® Exam is required.

Bonus points are awarded for scores ≥ 749 .

750-799 = 2 Points

800-849 = 4 Points

850-899 = 6 Points

900-949 = 8 Points

950-1000 = 10 Points

Official Transcript Showing (within the last 3 years)

Diploma Awarded for Completion of an Allied Health Program at TCAT

-or- Jackson State Community College CCMA (5 Points) _____

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _____

Deadline:

Certified Medical Assistant to Practical Nurse Bridge Program – March 20, 2026