

**CHAPTER II**  
**ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATIONS**  
*(Effective January 1, 2012 - 17th Edition of the Accreditation Manual)*

**SECTION A - Eligibility for Application**

Prior to consideration for accreditation, the Commission will determine preliminarily whether an institution or program meets the requirements for accreditation.

**b) Programmatic Eligibility**

An organization offering a program in medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, or surgical technology education is eligible to apply for and be considered for programmatic accreditation if it meets the following criteria:

(1) It is (a) a public or private institution at the postsecondary level accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) whose principal activity is education, (b) a hospital or laboratory based training school, or (c) a program in a Veteran's Administration (VA) hospital, a rehabilitation facility, or a federally-sponsored Armed Forces program.

(2) Its program is vocational in nature and is designed to lead to employment.

(3) It is located in the United States or its territories.

(4) At the time of the visit, the program will have enrolled students who have completed at least 50 percent of the program, or at least 25% percent of the core coursework, to permit evaluation of basic program operations and of student progress, satisfaction, and retention.

(5) The coursework required for graduation, including didactic instruction and externship, provides the following:

**(a) Medical Assisting**

attainment of entry-level competencies (see Program Requirements and Curriculum for Medical Assistants in Chapter VI), and consists of at least a 24-week full-time program of training.

**(b) Medical Laboratory Technology**

attainment of entry-level competencies (see Program Requirements and Curriculum for Medical Laboratory Technology in Chapter VII), and at least 60-semester credit hours, 90 quarter credit hours, or its recognized clock-hour equivalent (normally two academic years) of training.

**(c) Surgical Technology**

consistency with the current Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, produced by the Association of Surgical Technology ([www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)).