

Medical Assistant Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: February 20, 2025

External Participants:

Amy Johnson – Manager, Clinical Practice, NM Regional Medical Group

Kathy Marchuk – NM Regional Group

Kim Lawson - Clinical Educator BSN, RN, Crusader Community Health

Internal participants:

Dr. Jessica Berek – Dean of Instruction

Fernanda Kanashiro – Medical Assistant, Instructor

Alea Akers – Academic Advisor

Cindy Karasewski – Administrative Specialist

I. College Updates

A. Costs to Kish Students

- i. Review of changes that implemented in the 2024-2025 academic year and discussion of proposed changes for 2025-2026 academic year
 1. In 2024-25, College completed the elimination of student fees and provided clarity to students in billing; easier for students to prepare for the costs of college.
 2. Textbook costs and affordability have been a high priority. In 2025-26, the College has proposed a tuition increase that would cover the costs for textbooks and digital materials for students. This would simplify the process of acquiring books and save students money during their time at the College.
- ii. The College also provides support for students in health sciences programs. Health Sciences students have other costs involved with enrollment such as vaccinations, background checks, scrubs, and other items. Supports include reimbursement for mileage, internet access, and licensure exam preparation materials.

B. Review of MA program structure/curriculum (revised December 2024)

- i. Reviewed course sequencing and explained changes from prior structure. Program moved from three semesters to two semesters.
- ii. Revised structure simplifies the program and allows students to complete their externship and seminar in the spring semester. This allows them to participate in commencement and start their careers sooner.

II. Program Updates – Fernanda Kanashiro

A. Cohort updates

- i. The program has 9 students. Group is diverse and dedicated – some who are just starting a career in healthcare and some who are changing careers.
- ii. This spring, students are continuing to learn and improve clinical skills, starting with phlebotomy next week. They are also working on administrative skills using simulation software.
- iii. Students are looking forward to their upcoming externship. Placement of students in clinical sites will depend on availability, but their interests will also be considered.

B. Externship Planning

- i. Dates: April 14 – May 9, 2025 (could also utilize May 12-16); 160 hours total, 40 hours each week.
- ii. Start-end times set by each site.
- iii. The 4-week externship model is new and can potentially be adjusted based on feedback from this cohort and clinical partners.
- iv. Amy Johnson, NM Regional Medical Group, asked about concern over externship conflicting with home, work, life schedule; Fernanda confirmed that the students were aware of the commitment as part of the program and were excited about the opportunity.

C. Recruitment for next year

- i. Information sessions planned for perspective students beginning next week, strong interest so far. Students have already been meeting with Advisors to learn more.

III. Partner Updates and Questions

- A. Amy Johnson, NM Regional Medical Group, discussed expanding the externship program and asked questions regarding orientation. Stated they have a strong interest in externships with local sites.
- B. Kim Lawson, Crusader Health, confirmed availability for one student at a Crusader site.
- C. Question asked about what exam students sit for: The certification body is the American Medical Technologists with students sitting for the Registered Medical Assistant test.
- D. Question asked about how long the program has been running: This is the 4th cohort.
- E. Group stated this meeting was helpful and the Kish program changes are exciting to see.