

Allied Health Fall Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Host: Renee Freese

November 6th, 2025

Location- Via Webex

Participants-

Renee Freese- A.H. Coordinator, Program Director RNFA, MSN-Ed, RN, CST

Candy Canter- AH Faculty- MDA 2nd Years, MSN

Dr. Mat Moore- A.H. Faculty- MDA 2nd year

Stephanie Guinn- AH SGT Instructor, CFA-CST

Dana Copland- AH Faculty- MDA 1st Year, MSN

Amy Tafoya- A.H. Faculty- MDA 1st Years, BSN

Kimberly Bishop- AH Clerk

Colten Reidhead- 2nd Year MDA Student

Trey Borrego- MDA 2nd year

Dinah Gaddie-CCP Faculty- IET instructor and chair

Michael Dalessandri- Summit Educator

Melanie Chatter- LCC Medical Center Clinic Manager

Elizabeth Flake- NAU Assistant Coordinator

Darwin West- Changepoint

Lapriel Dia- San Carlos health

Haylee Beecroft- MDA 1st year

Sarah Ullevig- Office manager/Medical assistant compass medical center-snowflake

Donna Krieser- A.H. Advisor

2 call in users

Elise Vicente- Flagstaff Medical

Rachel Townsend- NPC Business Faculty

Farah Bughio- Director of Institutional Effectiveness/Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Liaison Officer

Jessi Reeck- Friends and Family Scholarship Director

SP- Sarah Pena Flagstaff Hospital

WR IHS Surgical Department together on Webex

Janie Sandavol, Faculty PHT

Dr. Bierer-Premier Medical Center

Dr. Brian Goodman-Summit Healthcare Family Practice

Meeting Summary

Medical Assisting Program-

The meeting highlighted the medical assisting program's significant growth, strong student outcomes, new faculty support, and plans for enhanced accreditation and clinical partnerships.

A.H. hired a new faculty member, Amy Tafoya, who works with our 1st year students at our WMC. Dana Copland also works with our 1st year MDA students at our Winslow campus. Candy Canter works with our 2nd year MDA students at our WMC campus and Dr. Moore with our Winslow 2nd year MDA students. We also have many adjuncts who offer additional support- Cassidy Johnson, Lauren Mitchell, Tara McLaughlin, Janie Sandoval, Dr. Brian Goodman, Lisa Garvin, Tyler Allen, Heather Tate, Rachelle Abbot, and our newest adjunct Sylvia De La Fuente- who comes from Maricopa colleges.

- It took our MDA program 5 years to recover from COVID, from 2019-2025, but our enrollment numbers are back up, with this year being the highest enrollment we have seen at 32 MDA 1st year students. Our MDA 2nd years are at 29 students, with 3 of those being public students.
- We had one of our second years Colten Reidhead speak about the MDA program. He stated he loves the program and the fact he can graduate High School with an MDA certificate.
- Our current 2nd year MDA Program has a cohort of 29 students and 3 public students. Our MDA 1st years cohort is the largest cohort we have had with 32 students. Last year students went and talked to students at their HS about the program
- We are excited to say Males are growing in our program at 28 percent.
- Our MDA program has a success completion rate of 100%.
- We have multiple clinical partners- Summit Healthcare, Whiteriver IHS, Premier Mountain Healthcare, North Country, Mom Doc, Northern Arizona Healthcare-Flagstaff, Winslow- Little Colorado Medical Center, Banner Healthcare, Dilkon Regional Medical Center
- 1st and 2nd Year MDA NAVIT students do a minimum of 480 hours a year for fall/spring, 240 hours a semester.
- 1st years have 336 theory hours, 48 lab hours, and 96 HOSA skills lab hours.
- 2nd years have 224 theory hours, 256 lab hours, plus HOSA skills lab hours.
- Our MDA126 is when students get 160 clinical internship hours.
- When our students graduate from the Medical Assistant program they are fully prepared to assist with the following medical office tasks: Phlebotomy, Medication Administration,

Electrocardiography, Vital Sign Measurement, Physical & Specialty exam preparation, sterilization and disinfection. They can go directly to work.

- The MDA program also introduces our MDA students to: Basic anatomy and physiology, Medical Terminology, Computer software applications, word processing, Medical Transcription, and Insurance coding and billing.
- Allied Health is hoping to add another clinical instructor for our Summer 2026 clinicals, with this being our larger number of students.
- NCCT passing rates for NPC MDA students are 100%. National pass rate for High School programs is 58%, so we are very proud of this number.
- Our current 2nd year Medical Assistants will be eligible to take the NCCT test in May 2026- students must be 18 to take the NCCT test.
- Liz Flake from NAU shared her presentation on statewide initiatives and alliances, wanting to talk about transfer plans. From NPC program to NAU program. Liz shared her webpage ([Statewide Initiatives and Alliances | Office of the Provost](#)) with her contact information and showed how you can go to transfer pathways webpage with information and templates for transfer plans for NPC. She showed the transfer plan and all the steps you will take to transfer; you can transfer 90 AH credits then will complete 30 credits at NAU. This is the next step you can take after getting your MDA certification. This is something you can take all on the online platform. PA program- requires certain course requirements. This gives students a steppingstone after finishing their MDA program to go onto another pathway.

Phlebotomy Program

- Our WMC instructors are Candy Canter and Amy Tafoya. At our Winslow campus we have Dana Copland and Mathew Moore.
- Renee Freese is our instructor for our Law Enforcement Phlebotomy program.
- Our Phlebotomy program consists of our public program and NAVIT. We added CCP-IET students who now can take this program (start with 6 but have 4 now they will join public group)
- WMC will be having their drawing party November 25th, students invite friends and family to come so they can get their puncture numbers in. Winslow will be having their party on November 20th.
- NPC Medical Assisting students also get their phlebotomy certification.
- NPC students in the Phlebotomy program must finish the CP degree to sit for a National Certification through NPC.
- NCCT pass rates have rapidly declined, since NPC started allowing non-NPC phlebotomy students to sit for the certification exam at NPC. When NPC was allowing non-NPC

phlebotomy students to take the NCCT testing through NPC it dropped down to 63%, one of the reasons we don't let many non-NPC students to test with us.

- NPC had 100% pass rate for years, prior to allowing external non-NPC students to test.

Surgical Technology Program

NPC is excited that the program is going well and growing. We are accredited through NCCT for certification and are still working towards higher accreditation ARC STSA and CAAHEP.

- Our SGT program is a direct to work program. It takes over 5 semesters to complete, with courses and prerequisites.
- We have Stephanie Guinn as our full-time faculty instructor and clinical instructor.
- Rod Navarrete is our adjunct instruction and phoenix clinical instructor.
- We also have Renee Freese as our back up instructor, Candy Canter specialty instructor, and Mardi St. Michel lab aid who all support our SGT program.
- We are working on higher level of accreditation, currently students get certified through NCCT. With NCCT you must renew every year, with higher accreditation you must renew every 5 years.
- We are currently taking applications for our next cohort, due November 14th at 4pm, students need to see a counselor to get degree audit, fingerprint card, etc.
- Cohort enrollment up 91%, we are trying to push students outside of summit.
- We started with 6, 4, 3, 11 students in the first 4 years. We used to take one cohort a year, now we take two in spring and fall. We are looking to go back to one cohort a year.
- We currently have 7 students going into clinicals in spring 26.
- Since 2019 out of 46 students we have admitted 35 (7 cohorts) this is what we needed to grow program for higher accreditation.
- Clinical partners: Summit, Flagstaff Medical Center (1 student per cohort/actively using), Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center-Safford (have 1 student there), WM Regional Center (1 student-actively using). Little Colorado Medical Center- they don't do bigger cases, but we still use them when we do sterile processing. Banner Payson is ready to take a student as well.
- We have just been accepted to use Banner Healthcare in the valley- this is big news and we hope to send a student to them next year.
- Sunrise outpatient is pulling their contract, as of January 2026 it will no longer be a clinical site.
- We still have Whiteriver as a clinical partner, but we are working to resolve getting students back to there, they had a change on how to admit students in.

- Honor Health, we also have a contract with but it's hard to get into them, they accept surrounding areas first.
- Dilkon and Sage Memorial don't have big cases either, so it is harder for us to get all the cases needed for certification.
- We are working on creating a partnership with Globe Hospital and hope to use them in the future.
- Stephanie spoke on how we are growing and how we got some new simulators with a grant we received. Those were added into the classroom this year.
- Our cohort 5 (biggest cohort) will be sitting for NCCT testing in Dec, cohort 6 started clinicals that will run until May 2026.
- Cohort 7 has 7 students, who will be ready for clinicals May 2026.
- We are looking at new clinical sites on areas our students are coming from, working with elevation in Flagstaff. Applied for San Carlos affiliation, working on Globe, working on Tuba City and Chinle.
- Stephanie is going to an AST educational conference in February. This will help to apply for higher accreditation. She thanked surgical clinical partners.
- The SGT program started using a case tracker for student accuracy.
- We are looking for an adjunct to help with labs and clinicals.
- We asked our partners to send us outdated supplies if they have any, so we can use them for our students.
- We had a couple of needle sticks, but remediation has been taken and Stephanie has addressed the group.
- We also have had a HIPPA issue we are addressing and making modules for the students to work on improving students' understanding.

Pharmacy Technician Program

We currently have one student in clinicals at Summit. Trying to finish up our last cohort with a switch in instructors. We went from Devin Brimhall to Janie Sandoval. We are hoping to build the program back up. We currently have clinical partners with Summit, Walgreens, Safeway, CVS, Walmart, and Delcon hospital.

Therapeutic Massage Program

- We have had some changes in instructors; we now have Tyler Allen as a full-time faculty and clinical instructor. She brings a lot to the table with the medical background she has.

- Rachelle Abbot is our adjunct instructor and TMP clinical instructor.
- Dr. Moore has helped us with the program as a chiropractor and Mardi St. Michel as our lab aid.
- Spa Estique is now one of our clinical partners- they allow us to use their site for clinicals on Mondays while their spa is closed. We thank Mosty for allowing us to use her Spa.
- We have 10 students currently and are hoping to get 10 more students in the spring.
- Our TMP students do 752 hours in 3 semesters. TMP240 is where they get their 176 hours in clinical internship.
- Our TMP students sit for MBLEX to become certified at the end of the program.

Other

Jessi Reeck our Friends and Family Scholarship Director

- Thanked everyone for the continuing support of all programs with scholarships. Applications for spring scholarships are open until November 13, 2025. They have several surgical tech students who are repeat scholars, they help those students mostly with travel. They are looking for additional ways to support those that have to travel far for classes.
- Jessi asked if anyone had any forms of donations that they would like to donate for a certain program through 501 (c)(3) they would be happy to take them.
- The Friends and Family Scholarship program is happy to support in ways that they can.

Rachel Townsend NPC Business Faculty

- No new news from the business department.

Summit - Michael Dalessandri- Summit Educator

- Nothing new to add, they are enjoying their partnership with NPC and provider as clinical sites for NPC. They do have a lot of schools reaching out to place students in clinicals, but they keep NPC at the top of their list.

Spring A.H. Advisory mtg will be held in person- will send out info with date and time, it will be held at WMC.