



ATC Spotlight

Medical assisting students set up mock doctor's office



Students in Dorinda Splant's MAST 1110 Medical Assisting course, found their footing -- so to speak -- fall semester when they simulated a physician's practice to experience what it's really like to work in a doctor's office.

The students set up the mock Athens Podiatry Office with the slogan "We love to make your feet happy," in the Medical Assisting skills/lab classroom for the fall semester's Administrative Practice Management class, Splant said.

The idea was to create an environment that would provide practical applications for the doctor's office functions the students were studying, and teach them the difference between accounting and bookkeeping in that setting, Splant said. The course covered basic administrative tasks such as accounting, computer office billing systems, ledger records, peg-board posting, bank deposits, check writing, budgeting, some financial reporting and electronic medical records -- a record-keeping method added to the course this year.

"They went through the entire process of a walk-through for a model doctor's office," Splant said. "They learned so much from establishing and being part of an office. At the end of the day, they held a staff meeting to discuss what happened during day, passed out payroll checks, and set goals."

The MA students spent weeks researching to prepare for the simulated office, Splant said. Class members wrote the scenario and script, and each of the nine students played some role in the office set-up to include the physician, office receptionist / payroll manager, bookkeeper, budget planner, accountant, office manager, medical assistant and patient.

"There was so much for them to do," Splant said. "They got into their roles and did an excellent job. They executed it perfectly."

Missy Hill, program director for ATC's medical assisting program, and Pat Moody, R.N. and clinical instructor for the program, attended the students' one-day presentation.

Splant's MA course served as surprisingly revealing, said 24-year-old student Jacob Slape from Loganville.

"It was a great course, and it opens your eyes on how much actually comes into play working in a doctor's office versus when you go (as a patient)," Slape said. "You don't think about how much comes into play and how much (a medical assistant) does on a daily basis."

Slape, who just completed his second semester in the medical assisting diploma program, intends to pursue his nursing and bachelor's degrees as well.

The research work and the mock doctor's office taught Slape a lot about insurance, how to deal with patients face-to-face, and how to handle the different situations that might come up with a patient's insurance or billing, he said.

Students who participated in the fall semester class included Slape, Lenita Peters, Denise Blackstock, Cami Simmons, Amanda Carithers, LaKandra Thomas, Crystal Corriher, Amanda Hattaway and Vickie Scarboro.

Photo caption: Athens Technical College medical assisting student Amanda Carithers played the role of a podiatry physician, and fellow student LaKandra Thomas played the patient, in a simulation of a doctor's practice for instructor Dorinda Splant's MAST 1110 Medical Assisting course.

[Dorinda Splant](#)

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