



Dental Assisting



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Associate in Applied Science Degree (4 Semesters) Certificate (3 Semesters)

At a Glance

A dental assistant helps with the direct care of patients under the supervision of a dentist. Dental assistants perform a variety of patient care, office, and laboratory duties. They work chair side as dentists examine and treat patients. They make patients as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, prepare them for treatment, and obtain their dental records. Assistants hand instruments and materials to dentists and keep patients' mouths dry and clear by using suction or other devices. Assistants also sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, prepare trays of instruments for dental procedures, take impressions and radiographs and instruct patients on post-operative and general oral health care.

Program Description

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be prepared to function as Dental Assistants in dental offices, hospitals, and clinics. The Dental Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. Graduates are qualified to take the National Certification Examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. Students may elect to complete the certificate program in 3 semesters or the Associate Degree program in 4 semesters.

Admission Requirements

1. Unconditional admission to the college – College application must be submitted by the program application deadline of June 1.
2. Student must be in good standing with the college.
3. Receipt of complete program applications accepted between March 1 and June 1 for Fall entry. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.
4. The online application is located at www.wallacestate.edu. Online application instructions are under the Program Application tab. Upon completion of the online application, all applicants are

required to submit a General Education Worksheet with all necessary documentation attached. The General Education Worksheet, along with full instructions, can be found in Online Application Instructions.

5. Official transcripts from each college attended must be provided to the Admissions Office and all unofficial transcripts must be attached to the program application General Education Worksheet.
6. Student must meet the essential functions and technical standards required for the program as documented on the required WSCC physical form at www.wallacestate.edu-see Physical Form Essential Functions.
7. A minimum of 16 ACT composite score (National or Residual) is required for admission consideration. Proof of score must be uploaded with the application General Education Worksheet.
8. Be eligible for ENG 101 according to college requirements. Please refer to General Admission section of catalog or check with your advisor.
9. Possess a 2.3 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Selection and Notification

1. The Dental Assisting Program admits annually each fall semester a maximum of 24 students.
2. Students are selected on the basis of satisfactory completion of admission requirements, ACT score and GPA.
3. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of the outcome of each application will be mailed to the student at the address provided on the application.
4. Students must respond in writing, confirming their intent to enroll within 7 days after receipt of their acceptance letters. A student who fails to respond will forfeit his/her place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing and background screening must accompany the acceptance confirmation.
5. Students accepted must attend a mandatory orientation session. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of their place in the class.
6. Due to the number of major required courses taken each semester, it is recommended that students complete as

many general required courses as possible before entering the dental assisting program.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Dental Assisting program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Upon Admission

1. Upon acceptance into the program students will be required to submit a physical examination form (current within one year), which includes documentation of immunizations along with evidence of having begun the Hepatitis B vaccinations.
2. Upon acceptance into the program, students are required to submit proof of CPR certification. Only CPR designed to certify health care professionals is accepted. Current CPR certification must be maintained throughout the program.
3. While enrolled in the program, students are required to have accident and liability insurance, available through the College.
4. Students are required to undergo background screening and drug testing and provide a clear result according to Health Science Division policy.
5. Students are required to have health insurance while enrolled in the program.

Progression

1. Students must attain a "C" in general and major required courses. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.
2. Students are required to complete the program within two (2) years of entry into the program.
3. Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the program must apply for re-admission. Students will be readmitted one time only.

Career Path

The Dental Assisting curriculum prepares students to assist in dental offices. Other career opportunities include employment in public health clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, teaching, research and dental office management. Job prospects for dental assistants should be excellent. Dentists are expected to hire more assistants to perform routine tasks so that they may devote their own time to more complex procedures making Dental Assisting one of the fastest growing occupations over the 2018-2028-projection period. Median hourly earnings of dental assistants were \$18.59 in May 2018, with the highest 10 percent earning more than \$26.35 an hour. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Upon completion of the dental assisting program, students may elect to apply for admission into the dental hygiene program. The dental assisting courses will be accepted for transfer to many colleges and universities for those interested in obtaining a Bachelors' Degree.

NOTE: *The Guided Pathways Curricular Maps below contain all the elements required for degree/certificate completion. However, courses may be offered or taken in other semesters so long as prerequisites are met. Additional options for elective courses are available. Please see DegreeWorks for allowable substitutions. Courses may be available days, nights, hybrid, and online. Sample maps for part-time attendance may also be available. Please see an advisor.*

ASSOCIATE DEGREE:

AAS DENTAL ASSISTING – Guided Pathway/Map

1st Semester

ORI 110	Freshman Seminar	1
DAT 100	Introduction to Dental Assisting	2
DAT 101	Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3
DAT 102	Dental Materials	3
DAT 103	Dental Anatomy and Physiology	3
DAT 104	Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2
<u>ENG 101</u>	<u>English Composition I</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	17

2nd Semester

DAT 111	Clinical Practice I	5
DAT 112	Dental Radiology	3
DAT 113	Dental Health Education	2
DAT 116	Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3
MTH 116*	Mathematical Applications	3
<u>PSY 200</u>	<u>General Psychology</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	19

3rd Semester

DAT 114	Dental Office Administration	4
DAT 122	Clinical Practice II	4
DAT 141	Directed Studies in Dental Assisting	3
SPH 106 or 107	Fundamentals of Oral Communication/ <u>Fundamentals of Public Speaking</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	14

4th Semester

BIO 103	Principles of Biology I	4
CIS 146	Microcomputer Applications	3
<u>HUM 101</u>	<u>Intro to Humanities</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	10
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		60

CERTIFICATE:

DENTAL ASSISTING-CERTIFICATE – Guided Pathway/Map

1st Semester

ORI 110	Freshman Seminar	1
DAT 100	Introduction to Dental Assisting	2
DAT 101	Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3
DAT 102	Dental Materials	3
DAT 103	Dental Anatomy and Physiology	3
DAT 104	Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
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Total Semester Credit Hours		17

2nd Semester

DAT 111	Clinical Practice I	5
DAT 112	Dental Radiology	3
DAT 113	Dental Health Education	2
DAT 116	Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3
MTH 116*	Mathematical Applications	3
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
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Total Semester Credit Hours		19

3rd Semester

DAT 114	Dental Office Administration	4
DAT 122	Clinical Practice II	4
DAT 141	Directed Studies in Dental Assisting	3
SPH 106 or 107	Fundamentals of Communication/ Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
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Total Semester Credit Hours		14
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		50

***If planning to apply for Dental Hygiene, MTH 100 is recommended instead of MTH 116.**