



Program Planning Guide

Dental Assisting Diploma (D45240)

Program Length: 3 Semesters

Program Sites: Lee Main Campus

Career Pathway Options: Diploma in Dental Assisting

The Dental Assisting curriculum prepares individuals to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatment and to function as integral members of the dental team while performing chairside and related office and laboratory procedures.

Course work includes instruction in general studies, biomedical sciences, dental sciences, clinical sciences, and clinical practice. A combination of lecture, laboratory, and clinical experiences provide students with knowledge in infection/hazard control, radiography, dental materials, preventive dentistry, and clinical procedures.

Graduates may be eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become Certified Dental Assistants. As a Dental Assistant II, defined by the Dental Laws of North Carolina, graduates work in dental offices and other related areas.

See the College Catalog and program website for details regarding; Limited Enrollment Curriculum; Entrance Standards; Required Admissions Criteria and Requirements for Acceptance.

Preparing for the Dental Assisting Program:

Pre-dental assisting students will be enrolled as General Occupational Tech/Dental Assisting – A55280DA prior to application and acceptance to the Dental Assisting program.

Students that complete the minimum requirements can submit a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP) application via their Student Success Hub. Minimum Requirements Include:

1. Completion of all health science general education courses.
2. Complete science courses with a B or better, all other courses completed with a C or better.
3. Health Sciences GPA of 2.5 for all required General Education courses listed below:

Course Number	General Education Core	Term/Planning Notes	Credits Required	Pre- / Co-Requisites
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1st Semester	3	None
BIO 106	Intro to Anatomy/Physiology/Microbiology	Spring only.	5	Pre-Req: ENG 002 (Need P1 Grade or better)
ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	1st Semester	3	Pre-Req: RISE Placement
PSY 150	General Psychology	Flexible	3	

Students accepted via the Limited Enrollment Process will then complete the Dental Assisting Diploma (D45240) using the plan below:



Suggested Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
BIO 106	Intro to Anat/Physiology/Microbiology	2	2	0	3	Seated
DEN 100	Basic Orofacial Anatomy	2	0	0	2	Online
DEN 101	Preclinical Procedures	4	6	0	7	Seated
DEN 102	Dental Materials	2	4	0	4	Seated
DEN 111	Infection/Hazard Control	2	0	0	2	Online
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	0	2	0	1	Online
	Total Semester Hours	12	14	0	19	
2nd Semester (spring)						
DEN 103	Dental Sciences	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 104	Dental Health Education	2	2	0	3	Seated
DEN 106	Clinical Practice	2	0	12	6	Seated
DEN 112	Dental Radiology	2	3	0	3	Seated
ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Online or Seated
SOC 240	Social Psychology	3	0	0	3	Online or Seated
	Total Semester Hours	14	5	12	20	
3rd Semester (summer)						
DEN 105	Practice Management	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 107	Clinical Practice II	1	0	12	5	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	3	0	12	7	
Total Semester Hours Credit Required for Graduation 46						



Course Descriptions

ACA 122 College Transfer Success

This course provides information and strategies necessary to develop clear academic and professional goals beyond the community college experience. Topics include the CAA, college policies and culture, career exploration, gathering information on senior institutions, strategic planning, critical thinking, and communications skills for a successful academic transition. Upon completion, students should be able to develop an academic plan to transition successfully to senior institutions. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

BIO 106 Intro to Anatomy/Physiology/Microbiology

This course covers the fundamental and principle concepts of human anatomy and physiology and microbiology. Topics include an introduction to the structure and function of cells, tissues, and human organ systems, and an overview of microbiology, epidemiology, and control of microorganisms. Upon completion, students should be able to identify structures and functions of the human body and describe microorganisms and their significance in health and disease.

DEN 100 Basic Orofacial Anatomy

This course provides a basic introduction to the structures of the head, neck, and oral cavity. Topics include tooth morphology, head and neck anatomy, histology, and embryology. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of normal structures and development and how they relate to the practice of dental assisting.

DEN 101 Preclinical Procedures

This course provides instruction in procedures for the clinical dental assistant as specified by the North Carolina Dental Practice Act. Emphasis is placed on orientation to the profession, infection control techniques, instruments, related expanded functions, and diagnostic, operative, and specialty procedures. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in clinical dental assisting procedures.

DEN 102 Dental Materials

This course provides instruction in identification, properties, evaluation of quality, principles, and procedures related to manipulation and storage of operative and specialty dental materials. Emphasis is placed on the understanding and safe application of materials used in the dental office and laboratory. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the laboratory and clinical application of routinely used dental materials.

DEN 103 Dental Science

This course is a study of oral pathology, pharmacology, and dental office emergencies. Topics include oral pathological conditions, dental therapeutics, and management of emergency situations. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize abnormal oral conditions, identify classifications, describe actions and effects of commonly prescribed drugs, and respond to medical emergencies.

DEN 104 Dental Health Education

This course covers the study of preventive dentistry to prepare dental assisting students for the role of dental health educator. Topics include etiology of dental diseases, preventive procedures, and patient education theory and practice. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in patient counseling and oral health instruction in private practice or public health settings.

DEN 105 Practice Management

This course provides a study of principles and procedures related to management of the dental practice. Emphasis is placed on maintaining clinical and financial records, patient scheduling, and supply and inventory control. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate fundamental skills in dental practice management.

DEN 106 Clinical Practice I

This course provides a study of principles and procedures related to management of the dental practice. Emphasis is placed on maintaining clinical and financial records, patient scheduling, and supply and inventory control. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate fundamental skills in dental practice management.

DEN 107 Clinical Practice II

Prerequisite: Take DEN 106

This course is designed to increase the level of proficiency in assisting in a clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the application of principles and procedures of four-handed dentistry and laboratory and clinical support functions. Upon completion, students should be able to combine theoretical and ethical principles necessary to perform entry-level skills including functions delegable to a DA II.

**DEN 111 Infection/Hazard Control**

This course introduces the infection and hazard control procedures necessary for the safe practice of dentistry. Topics include microbiology, practical infection control, sterilization and monitoring, chemical disinfectants, aseptic technique, infectious diseases, OSHA standards, and applicable North Carolina laws. Upon completion, students should be able to understand infectious diseases, disease transmission, infection control procedures, biohazard management, OSHA standards, and applicable North Carolina laws.

DEN 112 Dental Radiography

This course provides a comprehensive view of the principles and procedures of radiology as they apply to dentistry. Topics include techniques in exposing, processing, and evaluating radiographs, as well as radiation safety, quality assurance, and legal issues. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the production of diagnostically acceptable radiographs using appropriate safety precautions.

ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry

This course is designed to develop the ability to produce clear writing in a variety of genres and formats using a recursive process. Emphasis includes inquiry, analysis, effective use of rhetorical strategies, thesis development, audience awareness, and revision. Upon completion, students should be able to produce unified, coherent, well-developed essays using standard written English. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA and ICAA as a universal general education transfer component (UGETC) course in English Composition.

PSY 150 General Psychology

This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology.

SOC 240 Social Psychology

This course examines the influence of culture and social groups on individual behavior and personality. Emphasis is placed on the process of socialization, communication, conformity, deviance, interpersonal attraction, intimacy, race and ethnicity, small group experiences, and social movements. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and analyze cultural and social forces that influence the individual in a society. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA and ICAA as a general education course in Social/Behavioral Sciences.