

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DENTAL ASSISTING  
PROGRAM**

**ON-LINE INFORMATION SESSION  
FOR STUDENTS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR  
OF 2026-2027**

# The Dental Assisting Profession

A career in dental assisting is an exciting, challenging, and rewarding healthcare profession offering employment opportunities that are diversified and numerous.

Science and service-oriented individuals whose goals are to appreciate the need for acquiring knowledge and skills through life-long learning activities will find the dental assisting profession most rewarding.

# The Dental Assisting Profession

Graduates may choose to pursue a career in a variety of settings.

This includes:

1. Private Practice settings
2. Specialized Areas of Dentistry
3. Government Agencies
4. Dental Education
5. Public Health

# The Dental Assisting Profession

The job responsibilities of a dental assistant include:

1. Assist the dentist in the dental operator
2. Perform expanded dental assisting functions
3. Expose radiographs
4. Perform dental practice management and laboratory procedures

*For more information regarding the dental assistant profession visit the American Dental Assistant Association's website at [www.dentalassistant.org](http://www.dentalassistant.org).*

# The Dental Assisting Program

Students learn the theory and skills to become a professional, responsible member of the dental healthcare team.

Students will learn to assist the dentist in a clinical setting, expose radiographs, work with dental materials and perform practice management and laboratory procedures. Students will learn the dental and biomedical sciences through didactic and laboratory classes.

# The Dental Assisting Program

The goals of the program are:

1. To prepare students to have the knowledge and skills required to perform chairside assisting duties and expanded functions, dental practice management and laboratory procedures, and expose dental radiographs.
2. To prepare students to pass the Dental Assisting National Board Examination.
3. To provide students with the knowledge and skills to obtain employment as dental assistants.

# The Dental Assisting Program

4. To provide students with the knowledge and skills to successfully pass and complete the courses in the Dental Assisting Program.
5. To provide students with the knowledge and skills to complete the Dental Assisting Program and graduate.

# The Dental Assisting Program

Students are trained to perform advanced duties allowing them to become valuable members of the dental healthcare team.

The program is 10 months of full-time study consisting of one fall and one spring semester that are 15 weeks in length and a one 6-week summer session.

The curriculum includes course content in general education, biomedical science, dental science, as well as clinical and behavioral science.

# The Dental Assisting Program

After completion of the Dental Assisting Program, graduates will be eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Exam (DANB). Upon successful completion of this examination, the credential “Certified Dental Assisting” (CDA) is awarded.

# The Dental Assisting Program

The Dental Assisting program maintains the status of a fully accredited program by the American Dental Association's Commission Of Dental Accreditation (CODA). CODA is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Students who enter an accredited program and who successfully complete and graduate from an accredited program may state so for purposes of certification and regulations as set forth by state licensing boards.

# The Dental Assisting Program

The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678. Their web address is <http://www.ada.org/100.aspx>.

# Admission Requirements

- Comply with all General Admission requirements for the Allied Health programs.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must have a high school diploma or GED.
- Complete or self-place into MTH 133 or Math Unit 3 or higher.
- Request official transcripts from all educational institutions attended.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 \*
- Health insurance prior to attending assigned clinical rotations.

# Admission Requirements

- For Health Science programs, GPA evaluation will prioritize a student's record at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). If no NOVA GPA is available, the GPA from the student's most recent institution will be considered.

# Prerequisites

- Students must pass with a grade “B” or higher prior to admission into the program.
- ENG 111 – College Composition I
- BIO 145 – Basic Anatomy and Physiology
- SDV 101 – Orientation to (a Specific Discipline) or SDV 100 – College Success Skills

# Admission Requirements

Prior to entering the program, applicants are encouraged to take the following general education courses in order to reduce their academic load:

PSY 200 Principles of Psychology

CST 229 Intercultural Communication

\*PSY 201 has been replaced by PSY 200. If students have taken PSY 201 within FOUR years of applying, PSY 201 will be accepted as a substitution for PSY 200.

These courses can also be taken in the Fall and Spring semester of the program.

# The Admission Process

The college admission policy for programs with limited enrollment states that students are accepted on the following priority basis:

- Legal residents domiciled in cities and counties supporting the College(s)
- Other legal residents of Virginia
- Out-of-state applicants
- International students requiring Form I-20

*Note: Students holding visas not requiring Form I-20 may obtain clarification regarding their status from Student Services.*

# The Admission Process

The application period for submitting applications for admission to the Dental Assisting Program is May 1, 2025 through May 15, 2025.

Please enter Information Session Code: NVDNA20 on the Health Sciences and Nursing Application

Applicants are admitted to the Dental Assisting Program on a first come, first serve.

*Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

# The Admission Process

Applicants are to submit their application online. If there are questions to the application process, please contact:

Northern Virginia Community College

Office of Student Services

Room 202

Medical Education Campus

6699 Springfield Center Drive

Springfield, VA 22150-1913

703-323-3000

[meccounseling@nvcc.edu](mailto:meccounseling@nvcc.edu)

# Additional Information

Once accepted into the Dental Assisting Program, students will be expected to register and attend an orientation session during the summer.

Specific program requirements include:

- Current 2-year certification in basic life support for the Health Care Provider from the American Heart Association
- Provide evidence of good physical and mental health
- Documentation of Hepatitis B, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella vaccinations and/or documented immunity, as well as an annual flu shot.
- Documentation of having completed a Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening
- Documentation of a current PPD or Chest x-ray
- Provide evidence of professional liability insurance

# Additional Information

By the nature of the profession, applicants accepted into the Dental Assisting Program may be exposed to blood and body fluids while working or providing services during preclinical, clinical, and laboratory sessions. Policies and procedures have been established to ensure the working environment is safe in order to minimize the risk of disease transmission.

Applicants wishing to obtain copies of infectious disease program policies related to bloodborne infectious diseases may contact the Dental Programs Administrative Assistant at (703) 822-6607.

# Statistics for Dental Assisting

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AVERAGE DANB PASSING RATE</b>	<b>GRADUATION RATE</b>
<b>2017</b>	100%	85%
<b>2018</b>	100%	86%
<b>2019</b>	100%	90%
<b>2020</b>	100%	70%
<b>2021</b>	100%	80%
<b>2022</b>	100%	100%
<b>2023</b>	100%	100%
<b>2024</b>	100%	100%

# Additional Information

The following information is the approximate expenses to prospective students:

- Tuition In-State for One Year: \$7,955.43 (\$185.01/credit)
- Tuition Out-of-State for One Year: \$15,663.18 (\$364.26/credit)
- Uniforms: \$100.00
- Uniform Shoes: \$50.00
- Name Tag: \$25.00
- Liability Insurance: \$50.00
- Background Check and Drug Screening: \$125.00
- Textbooks: \$1200.00
- Dental Kit: \$300.00
- Dental Assisting National Board Exam: \$450.00

# For Additional Information

Sumera Rashid, D.M.D.

Program Director, Dental Assisting

[srashid@nvcc.edu](mailto:srashid@nvcc.edu)

703-822-2717

Ms. Stephanie Corbitt

Program Administrative Assistant

[scorbitt@nvcc.edu](mailto:scorbitt@nvcc.edu)

703-822-6607