

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM**

**ON-LINE INFORMATION SESSION
FOR STUDENTS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR
OF 2019-2020**

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.

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.

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 16 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. The Commission 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.
- Must pass Algebra I or have appropriate placement scores.
- Request official transcripts from all educational institutions attended.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must complete the following prerequisite courses prior to submitting an application to the Dental Assisting Program:

- ENG 111 College Composition I with a grade of “B” or better
- NAS 150 Human Biology with a grade of “B” or better taken within the last 10 years
- SDV 101 Orientation to Health Care or equivalent with a grade of “B” or better

Admission Requirements

If the applicant has taken NAS 161-162 Health Science I-II or BIO 141-142 Human Anatomy and Physiology I-II within the last ten years, these courses may be substituted in the place of NAS 150 Human Biology.

Applicants must receive a grade of “B” or better in NAS 161 and NAS 162 or BIO 141 and BIO 142 to be considered for admission into the Dental Assisting Program.

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 will be replaced by PSY 200. If students have taken PSY 201 within four years of applying; PSY 201 will 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 March 1st, 2019 through June 1st, 2019.

Please enter Information Session Code: NVDNA19 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

703-822-6531

MECCounselor@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 policies related to bloodborne infectious diseases may contact the Dental Programs Administrative Assistant at (703) 822-6627.

Statistics for Dental Assisting

Graduation Rates

- 2014 – 80%
- 2015 – 82%
- 2016 – 86%
- 2017 – 92%
- 2018 – 93%

DANB Passing Rate

- 2014 – 100%
- 2015 – 80%
- 2016 – 92%
- 2017 – 100%
- 2018 – 100%

For additional information

Lisbeth G. Shewmaker, D.D.S.

Program Director, Dental Assisting

lsheemaker@nvcc.edu

703-822-2717

Ms. Stephanie Corbitt

Program Administrative Assistant

scorbitt@nvcc.edu

703-822-6627