

DENTAL ASSISTING (AAS)

(91 credits)

Program Description

Dental assistants play a key role in the dentist's office, serving as a friendly face dedicated to making a patient feel comfortable, welcome, and safe. As a dental assistant, you'll work with a variety of people and provide important preventative health care services. You'll enjoy a flexible part-time or full-time schedule in an in-demand industry that can set the tone for a patient's future approach to their health.

Dental Assisting educates students in all phases of dental assisting, including expanded functions and passing the National Board Exam for Certification. The program is designed to be completed in five quarters (summer through the following summer) by full-time students. The Dental Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. 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 60611-2678. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>

Career Opportunities

Graduates may be hired as expanded function assistants, preventive assistants, business assistants, or traditional assistants. Employment opportunities are high and well distributed throughout the state. Dental assistants directly assist with all aspects of patient treatment and perform certain procedures independently. They also organize instruments, set up and oversee sterilization and disinfecting procedures, inventory control, ordering of supplies, polishing teeth, applying fluoride, placing sealants, providing homecare instructions, taking X-rays, and fabricating and placing temporary restorations.

Program Costs

In addition to tuition & fees, other costs (approximate and subject to change) are:

• Hepatitis B vaccination	\$250
• Tuberculosis clearance	\$100
• Malpractice insurance	\$17
• Name tag	\$15
• Printing	\$50
• Basic Life Support (CPR) training	\$80
• Textbooks and supplies	\$300
• Lab fees	\$1000
• National Board exam	\$524
• Uniforms and shoes	\$300
• Clinical uniform scrub fee	\$150

Uniform information will be provided during the mandatory orientation held before the start of program for those accepted into the program

Earning the Degree

An Associate in Applied Science Degree will be awarded upon successful completion of a minimum of 90 credits in courses numbered 100 or above. All core and general education distribution requirements must be met, with any additional credits to be selected as electives. Courses coded DENT must be taken in succession. All DENT courses and general education requirements must be completed with a grade of "C" or better to continue in and complete the program.

Accreditation

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 60611-2678. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda> (<http://www.ada.org/en/coda/>)

Outcomes

South Puget Sound Community College believes that all students need to develop a broad range of abilities that will not only make them more effective in their professional pursuits but will enhance their capacity to relate well to others in their daily lives.

At the completion of the Dental Assisting Program, the successful student will be able to:

- Effectively, independently, and efficiently perform supportive services that may be performed by registered dental assistants in Washington State
- Maintain safe environments in the dental setting by following state and federal standards, professional and ethical standards, and using effective communication
- Measure, record, interpret, and report data in both clinical and office settings
- Engage in processes that support continual improvement

The SPSCC college-wide abilities are embedded into each program:

- Effective Communication
- Information Literacy
- Analytical Reasoning
- Multicultural Awareness
- Social Responsibility

Admission Requirements Application Procedure

1. Admission to the college: First, apply for admission to the college using a general application here: spscc.edu/apply (<http://spscc.edu/apply/>). A new general application for admission to the college need not be submitted if you are a current student at South Puget Sound Community College.

2. SPSCC email account: Second, either activate or reactivate your student email address if it is not currently active.
3. Admission to the program: Third, apply for admission to the Dental Assisting Program using the special admission application here: spscc.edu/admissions/special/dental (<http://spscc.edu/admissions/special/dental/>). The Dental Assisting Program will be accepting special admission applications beginning on the first business day in March. Those completed applications received by the last business day in April will be given priority consideration for admission. There is a required, non-refundable \$25.00 application fee due at the time of application. The Dental Assisting Program application for special admission and fee are required for entry into the Dental Assisting Program even if you are already attending the college for other courses or programs.
4. Incomplete or late applications: Incomplete applications with prerequisites or high school diplomas scheduled to be completed after the first business day in April will be considered on a case-by-case basis once the prerequisites are successfully completed and/or high school diploma is received and if space is available in the program. Transcripts must be received by the date indicated within the application for the specified application year. Unofficial transcripts may be used for incomplete or late applications with the understanding that the official transcript will be received no later than the end of the first week in August.
5. Application ranking: Applicants will be ranked according to the number of required general education courses successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better and/or enrolled in. In the event of a tie, priority will be given based upon the date of application.
 - a. Five credits of additional communication from the General Education AAS requirements
 - b. Five credits from the Human Relations General Education AAS requirements
 - c. Diversity requirement
5. Prospective students must attend the invitation-only Dental Assisting Orientation held on Advising Day during the spring quarter. Additional information about the orientation will be provided to applicants by the end of April.
6. Courses coded DENT must be taken in succession. All DENT courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better to continue in and complete the program.

Readmissions

Readmissions of students is governed by policies in the Dental Assisting Policy and Procedural Manual, available from program faculty.

Additional Considerations

Health and Safety

Students registered in the Dental Assisting Program are required to have current and valid healthcare provider basic life support (BLS) certification (a BLS course is offered to students during fall quarter). Prior to starting in the fall, student will need to have started the Hepatitis B vaccination series, and to have received a recent Tuberculosis (TB) skin test (within 60 days prior to the start of fall quarter). Documentation for each of these requirements must be presented by the first day of class in fall quarter.

Courses by Quarter

Courses by Quarter

Code	Title	Credits
Quarter 1		
Transition Studies		
Quarter 2		
MATH 092	Mathematical Reasoning	5.0
or ABE 065	Contextualized Math II	
ENGL 090	Integrated Reading and Writing I	5.0
or ENGL 095	Integrated Reading and Writing II	
CCS 101	Pathways to Success	3
Quarter 3		
CMATH 107	Clippers Math In Society ¹	5.0
or CMATH 146	Clippers Introduction to Statistics	
ENGL 098	Transitional English Composition	5.0
or ENGL& 101	English Composition I	
Select one of the following:		
CMST& 101	Introduction to Communication	
CMST& 240	Intercultural Communication: Diversity	
ENGL& 235	Technical Writing ²	
CMST& 210	Interpersonal Communication: Diversity	
CMST& 220	Public Speaking	
CMST& 230	Small Group Communication: Diversity	
Quarter 4		
MED 103	Medical Terminology I	3
Select one of the following:		
HUM 121	Multicultural America: Diversity	

AAS Degree Requirements

Program Advising

It is recommended that students eligible for college-level English and math schedule an appointment with a dental program faculty advisor listed above. It is recommended that students still needing to complete pre-college English or math schedule an appointment with an Ed Planner listed above.

Program Requirements

1. Prospective students must have a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a postsecondary degree to be eligible for the program.
2. Prospective students may need to complete basic skills and/or pre-college English and math prior to being eligible for the program prerequisites. Proficiency may be demonstrated through placement testing or by receiving a placement test waiver based on previous college credits in English and math. Contact Enrollment Services at (360) 596-5241 for instructions on taking the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) or to request a test waiver.
3. The following program prerequisites must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better in order to be eligible for admission to the program: 63
 - a. MATH 101 Technical Mathematics I (or math from the General Education AAS requirements)
 - b. ENGL& 101 English Composition I (or ENGL& 102 Composition II)
 - c. MED 103 Medical Terminology I
4. The following program requirements must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better in order to be eligible for an AAS in Dental Assisting. It is recommended but not required that these requirements be completed prior to starting the core program:

PSYC 116	Psychology of Human Relations: Diversity
CMST& 210	Interpersonal Communication: Diversity
CMST& 230	Small Group Communication: Diversity
CMST& 240	Intercultural Communication: Diversity
BUS 260	Principles of Management: Diversity

Quarter 5

DENT 101	Intro to Dental Assisting Theory	2
DENT 110	Intro to Dental Assisting Lab	5
DENT 160	Dental Radiography I Theory	4
DENT 151	Dental Sciences I Theory	3
DENT 152	Dental Anatomy Theory	3
DENT 153	Dental Sciences I Lab	2
DENT 155	Chairside Assisting I Theory	4
DENT 156	Chairside Assisting I Lab	1
DENT 142	Dental Radiography I Lab	2

Quarter 6

DENT 170	Dental Radiography II Theory	4
DENT 161	Dental Sciences II Theory	3
DENT 164	Chairside Assisting II Lab	4
DENT 163	Dental Sciences II Lab	2
DENT 165	Chairside Assisting II Theory	3
DENT 166	Program Clinic Practicum I	2
DENT 172	Dental Radiography II Lab	2
DENT 162	Dental Specialties Theory	2
DENT 179	Dental Specialties Lab	2

Quarter 8

DENT 180	Externship Practicum	8
DENT 171	Dental Sciences III Theory	4
DENT 174	Chairside Assisting III Lab	1
DENT 173	Dental Sciences III Lab	2
DENT 175	Chairside Assisting III Theory	2
DENT 176	Program Clinic Practicum II	2
DENT 181	DANB Exam Prep	2

¹ MATH&101 accepted for entry Fall 2023 and Fall 2024. Starting 2025 and beyond MATH&107 or MATH&146

² If student wants to transfer to a Dental Hygiene Program then take ENGL& 235 (Pierce College) or ENGL& 102 (Clark College)

Pathway Maps

South Puget Sound Community College has provided pathways and associated recommended courses for ease of student selection based upon a student's career interest. Please review the pathway maps for required and recommended courses.

Dental Assisting Pathway Map
Associate in Applied Science

91 Credits
Total Core credits 64

Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5 (22)	Qtr. 6 (21)	Qtr. 7 (21)
Transition Studies	Choose one: MATH 092 (5cr) Mathematical Reasoning A&E 095 Contextualized Math II	Choose one: CMATH 107 (5cr) CLP102 Math in Society * Includes ability to complete: MATH 095 MATH& 107 OR CMATH 146 (7cr) CLP102 Introduction to Probability and Statistics * Includes the ability to complete: MATH 095 MATH& 106 MATH& 146 * some students may place directly into MATH&107 or MATH&146	Choose One (5cr): (Human Relations, recommended) HUMA 121 (5cr) Multicultural America: Diversity PSYC 116 (5cr) Psychology of Human Relations: Diversity CMST& 210 (5cr) Interpersonal Communication: Diversity CMST& 230 (5cr) Small Group Communication: Diversity CMST& 240 (5cr) Intercultural Communication: Diversity BUS&260 (5cr) Principles of Management: Diversity	DENT 101 (5cr) Introduction to Dental Assisting Theory Fall only		
	ENGL 090 (3cr) Integrated Reading and Writing I ENGL 095 (3cr) Integrated Reading and Writing II	ENGL 095 (3cr) Transitional English Composition ENGL& 101 (5cr) English Composition I	MED 103 (3cr) Medical Terminology I	DENT 110 (5cr) Introduction to Dental Assisting Lab Fall only		
	CCS 181 (3cr) Pathways to Success	Choose One (5cr): (Communication, recommended) CMST& 101 (5cr) Introduction to Communication CMST&240 (5cr) Intercultural Communication: Diversity ENGL&235 (5cr) Technical Writing (ENGL&101 is pre-req) *** Note for Ed planners CMST&120 (5cr) Interpersonal Communication: Diversity CMST&120 (5cr) Public Speaking CMST&230 (5cr) Small Group Communication: Diversity		DENT 160 (2cr) Radiography I Theory Fall only	DENT 170 (2cr) Radiography II Theory Winter only	DENT 180 (5cr) Externship Practicum Spring only

				DENT 151 (4cr) Dental Sciences I Theory Fall only	DENT 161 (5cr) Dental Sciences II Theory Winter only	DENT 171 (4cr) Dental Sciences III Theory Spring only
				DENT 152 (2cr) Dental Anatomy Theory Fall only	DENT 164 (2cr) Chairside Assisting II Lab Winter only	DENT 174 (2cr) Chairside Assisting III Lab Spring only
				DENT 153 (2cr) Dental Sciences I Lab Fall only	DENT 163 (2cr) Dental Sciences II Lab Winter only	DENT 173 (2cr) Dental Sciences III Lab Spring only
				DENT 155 (3cr) Chairside Assisting I Theory Fall only	DENT 165 (3cr) Chairside Assisting II Theory Winter only	DENT 175 (3cr) Chairside Assisting III Theory Spring only
				DENT 156 (2cr) Chairside Assisting I Lab Fall only	DENT 166 (2cr) Program Clinic Practicum I Winter only	DENT 176 (2cr) Program Clinic Practicum II Spring only
				DENT 142 (2cr) Radiography I Lab Fall only	DENT 172 (2cr) Radiography II Lab Winter only	DENT 181 (2cr) DANB Exam Prep Spring only
					DENT 162 (2cr) Dental Specialties Theory Winter only	
					DENT 179 (1cr) Dental Specialties Lab Winter only	

***Note for Ed Planners

- MATH: MATH&101 accepted for entry Fall 2023 and Fall 2024. Starting 2025 and beyond MATH&107 or MATH&146
- Communication: If student wants to transfer to a Dental Hygiene Program then take ENGL&235 (Pierce College) or ENGL&102 (Clark College)