



# Program Planning Guide

## Dental Assisting Diploma (D45240)

**Program Length:** 3 Semesters

**Program Sites:** Lee Main Campus

**Career Pathway Options:** Associate in Applied Science Technology Degree in Dental Hygiene

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 are 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.

### Limited Enrollment Application Overview:

The Dental Assisting (DA) program is a limited-enrollment program, which means that there are a limited number of seats in this program each year. Students must meet all requirements listed below to enter the DA program. While they are completing these requirements, pre-DA Students will be enrolled in the **Pre-Dental Assisting program (A55280DA)**. Acceptance will be reviewed from November 1 to May 15, and students will be notified of acceptance through email by May 15 each year. Provisional acceptance will be reviewed from May 15 to July 31, and students will be notified of acceptance through email by August 1 each year.

### DA Admission Requirements:

- ☐ Complete 10 credit hours of Pre-DA general education courses (see page 2).
- ☐ Complete BIO 106 with a B or better.
- ☐ Complete all other general education courses with a C or better.
- ☐ Have a minimum 2.5 GPA based on 10 credit hours of DA general education courses.
- ☐ Attend a mandatory, in-person program orientation before beginning the program. The date will be provided in the admission acceptance letter.

### Provisional Acceptance:

Provisional acceptance will be offered to a student if there are seats available after all fully accepted students have confirmed their acceptance by May 31 each year, **and**:

- ☐ The student has a grade of C in BIO 106.
- ☐ All remaining general education coursework will be completed by the end of the summer term.
  - ☐ Can have up to two missing general education classes, excluding BIO.



## Pre-DA General Education Requirements & Suggested Course Schedule:

Required Classes		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
BIO 106	Intro to Intro to Anat/Phys/Micro	2	2	0	3	Seated (spring semester)
ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
SOC 240	Social Psychology	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	

**Approved Biology Substitution:** Can substitute BIO 163, BIO 165/166, or BIO 168/169 for BIO 106

**Upon acceptance into the Dental Assisting program, students will take the following courses:**

Program Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
<b>1st Semester (fall)</b>						
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
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>2nd Semester (spring)</b>						
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
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>3rd Semester (summer)</b>						



DEN 105	Practice Management	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 107	Clinical Practice II	1	0	12	5	Seated
	<b>Total Semester Hours</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Total General Education Semester Hours Credit: 10</b>						
<b>Total Program Semester Hours Credit: 36</b>						
<b>Total Semester Hours Credit Required for Graduation: 46</b>						

## Course Descriptions

### **ACA 122      Transfer & Career Success**

This course introduces students to career and transfer opportunities while building skills for academic success, career exploration, and transfer preparation, ensuring readiness for success in community college and beyond. Topics include transfer agreements with public and independent institutions, programs and processes that facilitate transfer, and transfer tools and resources; career topics include career exploration and information and skills such as resume writing, portfolio development, and professional communication. Upon completion, students will be able to identify the community college program that matches their transfer and career goals, navigate transfer policies and processes, use Transfer Guides, develop an academic plan for future success, and identify professional application materials. 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**

*Requisites: Take ENG-045 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.*

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/ICAA as a general education 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.