

Dental Assistant

31-508-1 | Technical Diploma | 30 Credits | One Year | Financial Aid Eligible

Campus: Rice Lake

* Students in selected health sciences programs will travel to the Shell Lake Health Education Center. Travel requirements are customized to meet individual program course competencies.

Program Overview

Dental assistants with documented skills also may carry out a variety of laboratory, clinical and office duties. Some dental assistants manage the office and are responsible for patient scheduling and bookkeeping functions. Most dental assistants work in general or specialized dental offices, either for individual dentists or for groups of dentists. Some dental assistants may choose to work for insurance companies, dental laboratories, or dental supply companies. The dental assistant also may find employment with federal agencies such as the Veterans Affairs; United States Public Health Services; the Armed Forces; or a state, county or city health facility.

The program in dental assisting 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. The Commission’s web address is: <https://coda.ada.org/>

Admission Requirements

- Complete Online application form
- Submit an official high school (or HSED/GED) transcript with graduation date.
 - If you are a current high school student, you can be admitted with an unofficial, or official, current transcript. Your final official transcript with graduation date must be submitted prior to the program starting or you will be withdrawn from the program.
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech counselor (academic admission requirements apply - see page 37 for more information)

Program-Specific Requirements

- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check, National Criminal Background Check, Minnesota Caregiver Background Check (if applicable), and other states, if applicable
- Complete physical exam and health requirements, including immunizations
- Possess current certification of “BLS Basic Life Support”
- Review and sign Health Sciences Confidentiality Statement
- Review and sign dental office visit form
- Review and sign dental assistant program permission form
- Participate in a mandatory program orientation session

Program Outcomes

Dental Assistant graduates will be able to:

- Perform a variety of advanced supportive dental procedures
- Manage infection and hazard control
- Produce diagnostic intraoral and extraoral radiographic images on a variety of patients
- Perform advanced dental laboratory procedures
- Demonstrate professional behaviors, ethics, and appearance
- Perform dental office business procedures

Career Outlook

Typical positions available after graduation include:

- Dental Assistant
- Dental Receptionist
- Dental Office Manager
- Dental Practice Manager
- Dental Lab Technician
- Dental Laboratory Assistant
- Dental Insurance Claims Processor
- Dental Sales Representative
- Dental Treatment Coordinator
- Dental Specialty Assistant
- Maxillofacial Dental Assistant
- Endodontic Dental Assistant
- Prosthodontic Dental Assistant
- Orthodontic Dental Assistant
- Pediatric Dental Assistant
- Periodontic Dental Assistant

Required Courses

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
Program Courses		
10508101	Dental Health Safety	1 cr.
10508103	Dental Radiography*	2 cr.
10508113	Dental Materials*	2 cr.
10508120	Dental Office Management*	2 cr.
10508304	Dental and General Anatomy*	2 cr.
31508302	Dental Chairside*	5 cr.
31508306	Dental Assistant Clinical*	3 cr.
31508307	Dental Assistant Professional	1 cr.
31508308	Dental Chairside Advanced*	5 cr.
31508309	Dental Laboratory Procedures*	4 cr.
31508310	Dental Radiography - Advanced*	1 cr.
31508311	Dental Assistant Clinical - Adv*	<u>2 cr.</u>
Program Courses Total		30 cr.
TOTAL CREDITS		30 cr.

* Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

You must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course repeat policies exist that allow for only a certain number of retakes within this program; please refer to the policies for details.

NOTE: all hours are based on a 16-week calculation with the exception of Dental Assistant Clinical (31508306) and Dental Assistant Clinical-Advanced (31508311) which needs to be at an 18-week hour calculation due to total hour requirements for the program.

All students must earn a minimum of 300 clinical experience hours. These hours are completed during 31508306 Dental Assistant Clinical and 31508311 Dental Assistant Clinical-Advanced.

See pages 221-302 for course descriptions.