

## **Northwood Technical College**

### **FY26 (2025-26) Dental Assistant Program (Transfer Track)**

The following is additional information about the Northwood Tech Dental Assistant (DA) program.  
This information supplements the program webpage and district catalog.

**Degree: One-Year Technical Diploma**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM** - 33 semester credits

#### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Megen Elliott, MS-OCL, RDH, CDA  
Northwood Technical College  
1900 College Dr.  
Rice Lake WI 54868  
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#### **PROGRAM LOCATION**

Northwood Tech  
Rice Lake Campus

#### **CLINICAL LOCATIONS**

Northwood Tech District,  
Wisconsin, Minnesota, and  
other states

There is no time limit for course transferability, but a competency examination may be required to determine level of knowledge. Please be advised that there may be a waiting list. You can obtain application materials by contacting the Admissions Advisor.

#### **ADDITIONAL ADMISSION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS**

Due to the limited availability of space, transfer students are admitted on a space-available basis only. If space is available, you will be contacted as to what additional documentation must be provided to complete your transfer and course registration. Transfers are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **DA COURSEWORK**

DA students must adhere to the course sequence of the DA program plan. Students may not take core DA courses prior to the start of the DA core program. Completion of "BLS Basic Life Support" training is a prerequisite to treating patients and must be maintained throughout the program.

Courses that may be taken prior to starting the program are:

- Oral/ Interpersonal Communication (801-196)
- Students are expected to have entry-level computer and keyboarding skills.

#### **CLASS COMMITMENT**

The average amount of time spent in the classroom for a full-time student is approximately 32-35 hours per week. In addition to scheduled class time, students will need to spend a significant amount of time studying for each class. This represents a significant time commitment, and most students find it necessary to reduce work hours during the program.

#### **TRANSFER CREDIT**

Official college transcripts are required for any college coursework that has been completed. Official college transcripts must be sealed and sent from the sending institution.

Northwood Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or status in any group protected by state or local law in employment, admissions or its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies: Amanda Gohde, Associate VP, Talent & Culture, 1900 College Drive, Rice Lake WI 54868, 715.645.7042, Wisconsin Relay TTY:711, [amanda.gohde@NorthwoodTech.edu](mailto:amanda.gohde@NorthwoodTech.edu).

## **DA PROGRAM STANDARDS**

DA students must complete all required courses with a 2.0 or better. In addition, all DA (508-xxx) courses must be passed with a satisfactory performance in professionalism components, clinical, and observation requirements. A DA student may repeat a core course only once. In addition, students enrolled in the DA program may repeat only two core courses in the program during their progress toward graduation. This policy also applies to coursework taken at other colleges. A formal evaluation with the Dental Assistant Program Director and any supporting faculty will occur, as needed, if exceptions are to be made to this policy.

## **COMPUTER NEEDS**

Since all DA courses include a web-based component, students must have a computer and internet access.

## **ACCREDITATION**

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/>.

## **BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN RISK STATEMENT**

All Dental Assistant students should be aware that the field they are entering does have some special occupational hazards. The nature of the occupation could involve contact with infectious diseases, including AIDS and Hepatitis. Students will receive instruction in standard precautions and use of protective equipment to reduce the risk of blood and body fluid exposures. However, if an exposure should occur, diagnostic tests, treatments, or vaccinations may be necessary. The costs of these tests, treatments, and/or vaccinations are the responsibility of each individual student.

## **BACKGROUND CHECK AND CONVICTION RECORD**

Students in the DA program will attend clinical sessions in dental agencies that are regulated by state and federal government. The laws state that these clinical agencies may not hire anyone with a history of conviction of certain crimes. Northwood Tech must contract with these agencies to provide your clinical experiences while in the program. In order to do so, the agencies expect Northwood Tech to adhere to the same guidelines—in other words, they view students as temporary employees.

Conviction history will be explained at the mandatory program orientation. Prior to attending clinical coursework, a caregiver background check will be obtained from the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), along with a national criminal background check from [Verified Credentials, LLC](#). and, if applicable, a caregiver background check from the [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#). Having a conviction history will not necessarily stop you from entering the program. We will need to discuss the charges with you and will make every attempt to confidentially resolve the concern with the clinical agencies utilized for the clinical courses. Ultimately the clinical agencies reserve the right to determine what is an acceptable background check. The clinical agency may deny access to their setting based on a negative background check. If this occurs, you would not be able to complete the DA program requirements. The costs of background checks are the responsibility of the student.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID**

Financial aid is available to help you pay for your education. It can come in the form of grants, loans, federal work-study, military and veterans benefits, division of vocational rehabilitation benefits, and scholarships.

Students in the Dental Assistant program may not be eligible to receive full financial aid, due to Department of Education regulations on how credits are recognized. For more information contact your [campus Financial Aid Advisor](#).

**GRADUATE SALARY EXPECTATIONS**

Graduates earn between \$ 38,477-\$ 52,412 annually. The most recent graduate follow-up study indicates the average yearly salary to be \$ 43,032.

## Checklist for TRANSFER into the Dental Assistant Program

### Admission Requirements (Transfer Track)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit official transcripts from colleges previously attended to  
Northwood Tech  
ATTN: Admissions Advisor  
1900 College Dr.  
Rice Lake, WI 54868

The transcript must be evaluated by CFPL staff to determine semester placement. Once semester placement has been established, the transfer student may apply for admission to that semester. Application requirements include:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Online application form

Any student admitted into a Dental Assistant program within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) will receive reciprocity for admission at any other WTCS DA program. The student is responsible for submitting a copy of their previous admission information.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate. Current high school seniors must provide both a current high school transcript and a final (official) transcript with confer date
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review and understand the Technical Standards for this program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech counselor

Because space in the Dental Assistant program is limited transfer students will be admitted as space is available.

### Program-Specific Requirements

*Proof of the following items MUST BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO the first day of Semester 1 of the DA program:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations, and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb).
- \_\_\_\_\_ COVID vaccination---highly recommended

**NOTE:** Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement or ability to progress in the program if a student is not able to meet the clinical site requirements including but not limited to; influenza vaccine, covid vaccine, negative tb skin test or QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) or T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot), up to date acceptable background check, or any other clinical requirements required by the clinical site. Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement if the clinical site

must be changed due to students inability to meet the site specific requirements. Many sites require the student information 4-6 weeks prior to the clinical start date.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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

**FY26 (2025-26)****DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Prices listed are approximate costs and subject to change

TEXTBOOKS (DA occupational specific courses)	\$380.00
BACKGROUND CHECKS (required): \$78.00	
WI Caregiver Background Check	\$15.00
National Criminal Background Check	\$68.00
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:	
Uniforms (Navy, lab jacket x2, pants x2, clinic shoes)	\$150.00
Equipment (Includes: nitrile utility gloves and OSHA approved protective eyewear)	\$18.00
PROGRAM/COURSE PREREQUISITES	
47-531-437 BLS/CPR Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider	\$99.00
(note must be AHA or American Red Cross approved and must include a hands-on, in person, component)	
SUMMER TERM - TUITION/FEES	
10-801-196 Oral/Interpersonal Communication	\$482.60
FIRST TERM - TUITION/FEES: \$2,995.95	
10-508-101 Dental Health Safety	\$211.85
10-508-103 Dental Radiography	\$385.90
10-508-113 Dental Materials	\$385.90
10-508-304 Dental & General Anatomy	\$323.40
31-508-302 Dental Chairside	\$964.75
31-508-306 Dental Assistant Clinical	\$578.85
31-508-307 Dental Assistant Professional	\$164.20
SECOND TERM - TUITION/FEES: \$2,576.30	
10-508-120 Dental Office Management	\$323.40
31-508-308 Dental Chairside Advanced	\$964.75
31-508-309 Dental Laboratory Procedures	\$771.80
31-508-310 Dental Radiography-Advanced	\$192.95
31-508-311 Dental Assistant Clinical Advanced	\$323.40
CDA Exam Fee	\$450.00
*Optional: HESI Exam Fee	\$35.00
*Optional: ADAA student membership	\$35.00
<b>APPROXIMATE PROGRAM TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,323.75</b>

**Note:**

Transportation costs to and from clinical agencies will vary.

Students are responsible for additional clinical agency requirements.

Computer, other required hardware, or upgrade costs will be discussed on an individual basis.

Students are responsible for health form costs (TB test, Immunizations, titers, exam, etc.)

Students are responsible for costs related to injury or incidence while at clinical site.

