

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DENTAL ASSISTANT
STUDENT POLICIES

VERIFYING COURSE COMPETENCY TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

There is no time limit on length of time a Dental Assistant (DA) student may be granted credit for prior learning (CFPL) for General Education courses within the DA program curriculum. However, if a student has not taken Northwood Tech clinical or skills-based DA courses for two (2) or more semesters, or is a returning dismissed DA student, or if a student wants to transfer into the Northwood Tech DA program from another school, the student must demonstrate continued competency of the course content in which they are receiving CFPL. To assist the student to prepare for this exam, the student will be given the course outcome summary, including course competencies, performance standards, and learning objectives for all courses in which they will be testing.

General Education Courses

Students may transfer in Oral and Interpersonal Communication without having to pass a competency test. A student wishing to receive credit for prior learning must have earned a score of at least 79.5% (C or better).

Program Core Courses

DA courses that are considered lecture classes include: Dental and General Anatomy, Dental Assistant Professionalism, and Dental Office Management. Students may transfer in Dental Assistant Professionalism without having to pass a competency test. Prior courses or equivalents of Dental and General Anatomy and Dental Office Management will require that the student wishing to receive credit for prior learning pass a comprehensive written final exam at a score of at least 79.5% correct. If the student cannot meet the minimal passing score of 79.5%, the student will be required to retake the course in which the failing grade on the comprehensive exam was earned.

DA courses that are skills-based or clinical courses include: Dental Health and Safety, Dental Radiography, Dental Materials, Dental Assistant Chairside, Dental Assistant Clinical, Dental Chairside Advanced, Dental Lab Procedures, Dental Radiography Advanced, and Dental Assistant Clinical Advanced. If a student wishes to enter the program with CFPL for skills-based or clinical courses, the student must pass a comprehensive final exam at a score of at least 79.5% correct. In addition, the student must demonstrate competency during a “competency assessment session”.

The “competency assessment session” will be graded as pass/fail and the student must pass all course competencies for each class they wish to earn CFPL. If the student cannot meet the minimal passing score of 79.5% on the comprehensive exam and pass the competency assessment session, the student will be required to retake the course.

Revised 3/2021 (Verifying Course Competency)