



# DENTAL ASSISTING

LINCOLN CAMPUS AND ONLINE

Diploma

[www.southeast.edu/DentalAssisting](http://www.southeast.edu/DentalAssisting)



*Make someone smile! Dental assistants provide the opportunity to interact with patients and assist dentists in providing quality dental health care. You may also expose and process dental radiographs (X-rays), prepare and sterilize instruments and equipment, take impressions of patients' teeth, polish (coronal) teeth, assist the dentist with various procedures, communicate with other health care professionals, and perform office-management tasks.*

### Admission Requirements:

1. Application to the program
2. Submit program advising sheet showing enrollment in the final quarter/semester of prerequisite courses or completion of all program prerequisite courses with the required grade-point average.
3. Transcripts from high school, GED® or other colleges (if applicable)

### Prerequisite Courses:

SPCH1110	Public Speaking or	4.5
SPCH1090	Fundamentals of Human Communication or	
SPCH2810	Business & Professional Communication	
	AND	
PSYC1250	Interpersonal Relations or	4.5
PSYC1810	Introduction to Psychology	
	AND	
FSDT1350	Basic Nutrition	4.5
		13.5 hours

### Dental Assisting Courses:

Course #	Course title	Credit hrs
DENT1103	Oral Sciences I	3.0
DENT1110	Preclinical Concepts	4.5
DENT1111	Ethics and Jurisprudence	2.0
DENT1210	Oral Sciences II	3.5
DENT1211	Dental Assisting Foundations I	4.5
DENT1212	Oral Hygiene	3.0
DENT1214	Clinical Concepts	3.5
DENT1311	Dental Assisting Foundations II	4.0
DENT1312	Dental Materials I	3.0
DENT1313	Oral Radiography I	4.5
DENT1314	Clinical Education I	6.5
DENT1410	Practice Management Skills	3.0
DENT1411	Dental Assisting Foundations III	4.0
DENT1412	Dental Materials II	3.0
DENT1413	Oral Radiography II	1.5
DENT1414	Clinical Education II	6.5
		60.0 hours



### Graduate Earnings

Recent graduates report an average starting wage of \$14.45 per hour.

### For more information contact:

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[cstuhr@southeast.edu](mailto:cstuhr@southeast.edu)

or the College Admissions Office  
Lincoln 402-437-2600, 800-642-4075 ext. 2600

or Michele Saucier, Pre-health Advisor  
402-437-2688, 800-642-4075, ext. 2688  
[msaucier@souteast.edu](mailto:msaucier@souteast.edu)

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-440-2500, [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). All graduates are eligible to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board exam.

Equal Opportunity/NonDiscrimination Policy - It is the policy of Southeast Community College to provide equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all admission, attendance, and employment matters to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, ethnicity, veteran status, sexual orientation, disability, or other factors prohibited by law or College policy. Inquiries concerning the application of Southeast Community College's policies on equal opportunity and nondiscrimination should be directed to the Vice President for Access/Equity/Diversity, SCC Area Office, 301 S. 68th Street Place, Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-323-3412, FAX 402-323-3420, or [jsoto@southeast.edu](mailto:jsoto@southeast.edu). This publication should not be considered a contract between SCC and any prospective student. SCC's Board of Governors reserves the right to make changes in this publication during the life of the publication and without notice. A0713 - DENT (05/16)

## Basic Information

### What does a dental assistant do?

Dental assistants perform a variety of laboratory, clinical and office tasks. Dental assistants work with dentists to provide dental treatment to patients. Dental assistants are skilled at helping the patient be as comfortable as possible during the dental treatment. During the dental procedure, they assist the dentist by keeping the patient's mouth clean with suction devices and exchange instruments. They take impressions, construct temporary crowns/bridges, and assist in operative procedures for oral surgery and other dental specialties. Dental assistants expose and process radiographs as directed by a dentist.

### Other skills used by dental assistants include:

- coronal polishing of the teeth
- sterilizing and disinfecting dental equipment and instruments
- prepare operatories including tray setups for dental procedures and
- providing post-operative instructions and instruction to patients pertaining to oral health practices.

In some offices, dental assistants may also manage the entire dental office, arrange and confirm appointments, receive patients, keep treatment records, send statements, receive payments, file insurance forms, and order dental supplies and materials.

### What does it take to become a certified dental assistant?

It takes dedication and hard work to become a dental assistant. Dental assistants must be dedicated to helping people and must desire to be part of the dental team.

They need to be able to work well with people and with patients under stressful circumstances since not everyone enjoys a visit to the dentist. The Dental Assisting program at SCC helps the student gain the skills necessary to be successful.

Dental assisting students on the clinical track must be prepared for a full schedule of classes. Because there is an extensive amount of material to cover in a short time, dental assisting classes are extremely time consuming, and the successful dental assisting student must have excellent study skills and be committed to the program.

### How long is the program at SCC?

The program is designed to be completed in four quarters.

### How much time will I spend in dental offices?

Students begin rotations at the University of Nebraska Medical Center-College of Dentistry in Lincoln during the second quarter. Students rotate in private dental offices, dental clinics and the UNMC-College of Dentistry. The average time in clinicals is approximately 16 hours per week.

Clinical Education I & II seminars include 1.5 hours per week in the classroom during both third and fourth quarters.

Some clinical assignments may not be accessible by public transportation or may be outside of Lincoln, so students must be prepared to arrange for transportation if necessary.

### Limitations to employment while in the program:

Students may apply to the Dental Assisting program but have difficulty maintaining employment for any of the following reasons:

- Physical or emotional health indicating impairment in their ability to provide safe dental care to the public
- Behavior failing to adhere to the standards of a professional dental assistant

Examples of such behavioral failures:

1. Has given false information or has withheld material information.
2. Has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) to any crime which indicates the individual is unfit or incompetent to practice dental assisting or that the individual has deceived the public.
3. Uses or has used any drug to a degree which interferes with his/her ability to practice dental assisting.
4. Engages or has engaged in conduct which endangers public health.

### Estimated Expenses

To determine overall costs, students should plan a budget that includes room, meals, clothing, laundry, medical care, recreation and entertainment, transportation, insurance, etc.

Nebraska Resident tuition rate is \$61.50 per credit hour. Out-of-state tuition rate is \$75.50 per credit hour. Student fee is \$1.50 per credit hour. Graduation fee is \$25. Housing is available at Beatrice and Milford Campuses only. Quarterly tuition, books and fees are dependent upon classes taken.

#### FIRST QUARTER

Tuition And Fees	\$788
Books	926
Special Fee (Assessed with DENT1110)	410
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,124</b>

#### SECOND QUARTER

Tuition And Fees	\$914
Books	234
Special Fee (Assessed With DENT1211)	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,233</b>

#### THIRD QUARTER

Tuition And Fees	\$1,134
Special Fee (Assessed With DENT1314)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,139</b>

#### FOURTH QUARTER

Tuition And Fees	\$945
Books	134
Special Fee (Assessed With DENT1414)	425
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,504</b>
<b>Total Estimate For Program</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>

#### ADDITIONAL RELATED EXPENSES

Student Health Statement (includes 3 Hepatitis B injections)	\$50-300
Health Insurance	\$300

### Special Program Requirements to be submitted to the Health Sciences Division's Administrative Assistants (room B-4) PRIOR to the START of Dental Assisting program:

1. Submit completed Health Statement.
2. Current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR card (allied health).
3. Current health insurance policy verification.
4. Current prophylaxis (teeth cleaned) verification.
5. Two-step skin test for tuberculosis and/or a chest X-ray are required.

### To be completed during the program:

1. Annual flu immunization.
2. Drug test.
3. Criminal background check.\*
4. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required to graduate from the program.
5. All DENT courses completed with a grade of 75% (C+) or higher to progress through the program.

\*Please note: Misdemeanor or felony convictions may prevent a graduate from acquiring a credential.

Students admitted to a Health Sciences program at Southeast Community College that requires a clinical rotation at a contracted healthcare facility will be required to submit to initial drug and alcohol testing prior to the first clinical rotation.

This program offers Web-based courses but requires supervised clinicals/practicums/labs at authorized locations. On-campus labs are mandatory.

Note: This program is offered on the Lincoln Campus in both Spring and Fall quarters, and online in the Fall quarter.

