



# Dental Assisting Admissions



## **Admission Requirements for Dental Assisting Program**

1. If not already a Prairie State Student, complete the PSC college application.

*After completing the PSC college application, please participate in the on-demand Dental Assisting Program Informational Session. You can gain access to this session by emailing [Dawn Piper](#) you are interested in applying to the DA program.*

2. Job Shadow Requirement: Before applying students are required to job shadow in a dental office of their choice for 8 hours total and provide written documentation as proof.
3. Math requirement: Successful completion of PSC's MATH 091, MATH 093 or equivalent with a C or better; **or** PSC's Assessment Exam placement score at Math 094 or higher.
4. English requirement: Successful completion of PSC's ENG 099 with a C or better; **or** PSC's Assessment Exam Placement Score at ENG 101 level.
5. Submit official high school transcript or high school equivalency transcript.

**Upon completion of the above items, applicants are required to complete a program intent form available on the application portal. Students can access the portal on the [Selective Admissions webpage](#).**

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### ***Castlebranch: Background check/ Physical/ Drug test/Vaccines***

All students enrolled in the dental assisting program will be required to complete a criminal background check, 10-panel drug screen, and physical examination and demonstrate proof of immunizations and/or immunity by midterm of the second semester of the program. Failure to have all requirements completed will prohibit the student from progressing to the final semester of the program. These requirements are covered in depth in the student handbook.

Vaccinations are a critical necessity of being a healthcare professional. If a student has chosen not to be vaccinated due to medical, religious, or cultural reasons they will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they are aware that an off-campus learning facility may not accept the student without proof of immunizations. The program will not guarantee an alternate placement if a student is rejected from a clinical site. Documentation from a medical facility and/or clergy will be required if vaccines have not been completed.

In order to be successful in the dental assisting certificate program, a student must have the skills and abilities essential to perform the functions of a dental assistant in the dental field. Students applying to the dental assisting certificate program must be able to perform these skills and abilities upon admission to the program with or without reasonable accommodations. A health care provider must verify the student's ability to complete these skills and abilities which are covered in depth within the student handbook.

## ***- Physical Demands***

*Dental assistants frequently:*

- Use their hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools, or controls.
- Repeat the same movements.
- Bend or twist their body.
- Sit for long periods of time.
- Stand for long periods of time.

*It is important for dental assistants to be able to:*

- See details of objects that are less than a few feet away.
- Understand the speech of another person.
- Speak clearly so listeners can understand.
- Hold the arm and hand in one position or hold the hand steady while moving the arm.
- Use fingers to grasp, move, or assemble very small objects.
- Make quick, precise adjustments to machine controls.
- Use one or two hands to grasp, move, or assemble objects.

*It is not as important, but still necessary, for dental assistants to be able to:*

- Move two or more limbs together (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while remaining in place.
- See details of objects that are more than a few feet away.
- See differences between colors, shades, and brightness.
- Bend, stretch, twist, or reach out.
- Hear sounds and recognize the difference between them.
- Focus on one source of sound and ignore others.
- Use stomach and lower back muscles to support the body for long periods without getting tired.
- Be physically active for long periods without getting tired or out of breath.
- Use muscles to lift, push, pull, or carry heavy objects.
- React quickly using hands, fingers, or feet.
- Make fast, repeated movements of fingers, hands, and wrists.
- Move arms and legs quickly.
- Use muscles for extended periods without getting tired.
- Choose quickly and correctly among various movements when responding to different signals.
- Adjust body movements or equipment controls to keep pace with speed changes of moving objects.
- Coordinate movement of several parts of the body, such as arms and legs, while the body is moving.

- Keep or regain the body's balance or stay upright when in an unstable position.
- Determine the distance between objects.

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

*While in DA104 Radiology: All students will be required to bring into the clinic 2 patients who are due for x-rays.*

*Throughout the program, students will practice skills on each other (such as taking impressions, blood pressure, head and neck exams), but students will not be practicing taking x-rays on each other.*

### **OFF - CAMPUS CLINICAL FACILITIES**

Students in the Dental Assisting program complete required clinical experiences at private dental offices and clinics and special off-campus assignments. Transportation to all off-campus assignments is the sole responsibility of each student. Students are responsible for all costs associated with travel/transportation.

*Upon completion of the Dental Assisting Certificate Program, graduates will be eligible for:*

#### **DANB's NELDA certification Exam - Pathway I:**

1. Graduation from a dental assisting program located within a post-secondary institution that is accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education but is NOT CODA-accredited, AND
2. High school graduation or equivalent
3. Current CPR, BLS or ACLS from a DANB-accepted provider

#### **DANB's CDA certification - Pathway II:**

1. High school graduation or equivalent, AND
2. Minimum of 3,500 hours of approved work experience, AND
3. Current CPR from a DANB-accepted provider

For additional information on Dental Assisting National Board Exams visit <https://www.danb.org/>

## Estimated Dental Assisting Program Costs

The cost of travel to area dental offices is at the student's expense.

NELDA exam cost	\$400
2 sets of Navy Blue Scrub Top, Pants and Jacket	\$100
Shoes: clean, white, grey, or black gym shoes with rubber soles (minimal coloring on the gym shoe is acceptable). Shoes must be closed-toe and back. Shoes must cover the tops of the foot.	\$30
Castlebranch compliance tracker: drug test & background check	\$105
Texts for all Dental Assisting courses	\$600
Physical Exam and Immunizations	\$200

\*\* Cost for physical exam and immunization can vary considerably depending on healthcare coverage.

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### Semester 1

Registration Fee \$10

*1 General Education Course* 3 credit hours \$174 x 3 credit hours = \$522

4 Dental Assisting Courses \$174+75 credit hour healthcare course surcharge

DA101	2 credit hours	\$498 in district	
DA103	4 credit hours	\$996 in district	lab fee \$75
DA104	4 credit hours	\$996 in district	lab fee \$75
DA298	2 credit hours	\$498 in district	

**Total Tuition & Fees for Semester 1** **\$3670**

## **Semester 2**

Registration Fee \$10

*2 General Education Courses* 3 credit hours each \$174x 3 credit hours = \$1044

Dental Assisting Courses \$174+75 credit hour healthcare course surcharge

DA106	4 credit hours	\$996	\$75 lab fee
DA201	4 credit hours	\$996	\$75 lab fee
DA299	2 credit hours	\$498	

**Total Tuition & Fees for Semester 2**

**\$3544**

NOTE: Tuition and Fees are subject to change each year. Travel to/from clinical sites is at the student's expense. Any additional immunizations or criminal background check requested by a clinical site is at the student's expense.