



NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

DENTAL ASSISTING

Associate in Applied Science Degree with Certificate Option

Program Location: Bay Minette Campus

Length: Five Semesters (A.A.S. Degree); Three Semesters (Certificate)

This program prepares individuals to assist with the care of dental patients under direct supervision of a dentist. Dental assistants help with the provision of patient care, business office administration and laboratory procedures. Dental assistants hold a vital role in the dental healthcare team. Responsibilities include recording patient's dental and health history, taking and recording vital signs, patient reassurance, treatment and instrument preparation, mixing and transferring dental materials, processing and sterilizing instruments, maintaining infection control, maintaining inventory control, exposing and processing radiographs, dental equipment maintenance, and providing patients pre-op, post-op, and oral hygiene instructions. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and currently holds the status of "approval without reporting requirements." Students are required to take the Dental Assisting National Board Infection Control Exam, the Radiation Health and Safety Exam, and General Chairside Exam.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of Coastal Alabama.
2. Eligibility for ENG 101 and MTH 116/098 according to ACT or placement exam scores if courses have not already been completed.
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 for the last 24 credit hours of college coursework, or minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 high school without college coursework. The GED equivalent is 2.5.
4. Submit official transcripts from all colleges attended and high school, or GED to admissions before July 15.
5. Submit Dental Assisting Program application with unofficial transcripts to program director by July 15 at close of business.
6. Upon acceptance and no later than the scheduled Dental Assisting Program orientation, the completed Dental Assisting form and Immunization form must be submitted. No blue cards accepted. Also, a copy of a current healthcare provider CPR card and consent to random drug testing and background check must be provided at mandatory Dental Assisting Program orientation.
7. Submit required form for observation of a dental assistant completing duties at a dental office.

SELECTION:

There are 24 available spaces. If over 24 qualified applications are received, in addition to the above, points will be awarded for ENG 101, MTH 116 (or higher-level Math), PSY 200, and SPH 106 or 107. In the event of a tie, additional points will be awarded for a Fine Arts Elective, CIS 146, BIO 103, and SOC 200.

DEGREE:

A certificate is awarded upon completion of the DAT courses, ENG 101, MTH 116 (or higher-level Math), PSY 200, and SPH 106 or 107 for a total of 48 credit hours. Students may work as dental assistants after successful completion of the certificate. Additional requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree are a Fine Arts elective, CIS 146, BIO 103, and SOC 200.

ORI 101 may not be required for those with prior college coursework. MTH 100, 112, 113 or a higher-level math may be substituted for MTH 116. SPH 106 may be taken in place of SPH 107. The courses listed for this semester are required for the Dental Assisting Associate Degree and Dental Assisting Certificate.

EMS 100 is an optional course for students to pursue CPR certification for the healthcare provider.

This is a career program designed for students to go directly into the labor market upon completion. Although some of the courses in this program will transfer to four-year institutions, this program is not designed to be a transfer program of study; therefore, it is not subject to the terms and conditions of STARS.

AREA I: Written Composition	3 Total Hours
ENG 101 – English Composition I	3
AREA II: Humanities and Fine Arts	6 Total Hours
Choose one of the following: SPH 106 – Fundamentals of Oral Communication SPH 107 – Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Humanities and Fine Arts Elective: Choose one of the following ART 100 – Art Appreciation MUS 101 – Music Appreciation REL 100 – History of World Religions THR 120 – Theater Appreciation THR 126 – Introduction to Theater	3
AREA III: Natural Sciences and Mathematics	10 Total Hours
CIS 146 – Microcomputer Applications	3
MTH 116 – Mathematical Applications or more advanced MTH 100 – Intermediate College Algebra MTH 110 – Finite Mathematics MTH 112 – Precalculus Algebra MTH 113 – Precalculus Trigonometry MTH 115 – Precalculus Algebra and Trigonometry MTH 116 – Mathematical Applications	3
BIO 103 – Principles of Biology I	4
AREA IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	6 Total Hours
PSY 200 – General Psychology	3
SOC 200 – Introduction to Sociology	3
AREA V: Pre-Professional, Major, and Elective Courses	37 Total Hours
DAT 100 – Introduction to Dental Assisting	2
DAT 101 – Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3
DAT 102 – Dental Materials	3
DAT 103 – Anatomy and Physiology for Dental Assisting	3
DAT 104 – Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2
DAT 111 – Clinical Practice I	5
DAT 112 – Dental Radiology	3
DAT 113 – Dental Health Education	2
DAT 116 – Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3
DAT 121 – Dental Office Procedures	3
DAT 122 – Clinical Practice II	4
DAT 126 – Dental Assisting Seminar	3
ORI 101 – Orientation to College	1
EMS 100 – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation I (optional)	
Total Hours	62 SH