



## **South Central College Program Design**

# **AAS 3326 Dental Assisting**

### **Program Information**

**Instructional Level** Associate Degree

**Career Cluster** Health Science Technology

### **Description**

The Dental Assisting curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for the learner to develop a sound fundamental background for the practice of dental assisting. The specialized knowledge in the field of dental assisting prepares the learner and graduate to contribute to the world of dentistry for today's changing environment. This program identifies necessary competencies and integrates the curricula to support these outcomes to produce a dental assistant who is a vital member of the dental health team. The learner will become grounded and prepared to function as a Chairside and Expanded Functions clinician, a Business/Office Dental Assistant and a Laboratory Dental Assistant. Graduates of the program are capable of practicing in a general dental practice or in a dental specialty. Progression through the program is sequential. Due to the limited amount of space in the clinical area, learners will be admitted on space available basis. Successful completion of all courses in the dental assisting program require passing with a C/2.0 GPA or above.

The program is designed to meet the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation Standard for Dental Assisting with the clinical skills and competencies as designated by the State Dental Practice Act of Minnesota State Board of Dentistry. A unique aspect of the South Central College's Dental Assisting program is its location on the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus in a newly refurbished 12-unit dental clinic, with restorative facilities, shared by MSU's Dental Hygiene program.

As you embark on your journey in the dental field, it's important to be aware of potential health risks, including exposure to bloodborne pathogens. During clinical procedures, there is a possibility of encountering pathogens such as Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), among others, that can be transmitted through contact with blood or other bodily fluids.

To minimize the risk of exposure, the dental faculty and students strictly adhere to infection control protocols, including:

- Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Hand hygiene before and after each procedure
- Safe handling and disposal of sharp instruments
- Regular sterilization and disinfection of dental instruments and surfaces

By following these precautions, you help protect both yourself and your patients. Your safety is a priority, and we are committed to providing the necessary training and resources to ensure a safe learning environment.

Accreditation Information

The Dental Assisting program at South Central College is accredited by The Commission on Dental Accreditation, (CODA).

Program Admission Dates (Fall and/or Spring)

Fall

Program Location (North Mankato and/or Faribault)

North Mankato

Program Student Learning Goals

- 1 Demonstrate practical application of infection control, biohazards/quality assurance procedures, and treatment area maintenance.
- 2 Demonstrate competency/skill in business office procedures and equipment, dental practice management systems, and financial transactions including oral /written communication.
- 3 Demonstrate skill competency in oral/written communication and patient management.
- 4 Apply current dental assisting concepts and techniques through competency skill levels and clinical/laboratory dental assisting, radiology, expanded functions, general and specialty dental procedures.
- 5 Demonstrate skills to collect medical/dental data, vital signs, dental charting, and maintain accurate patient records.
- 6 Conduct extra-oral/intra-oral exams, radiographs, preliminary impressions, study casts, and occlusal bite registrations.
- 7 Demonstrate competency skills and proficiency in tray set-ups, unit preparation, and medical emergency situations.

Program Configurations

Fall Start

Credits

Technical Course	45
Liberal Arts & Sciences	7
Arts & Sciences	10
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Total Credits	62

Year 1 - Semester 1

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Function
HLTH 1950	CPR	1	Technical Course
HLTH 1952	First Aid	1	Technical Course
DA 1827	Dental Nutrition	1	Technical Course

COMM 140	Interpersonal Communication	3	Liberal Arts & Sciences
LAS Elective	Goal Area 5	3	Arts & Sciences
DA 1820	Dental Science I	3	Technical Course
PHIL 100 OR PHIL 150	Ethics in Society OR Medical Ethics	3	Arts & Sciences

### Year 1 - Semester 2

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Function
DA 1850	Dental Business Technologies	3	Technical Course
DA 1813	Preclinical DA	2	Technical Course
DA 1814	Chairside Dental Assisting I	4	Technical Course
DA 1815	Dental Materials	3	Technical Course
DA 1823	Dental Science II	2	Technical Course
ENGL 100	Composition	4	Arts & Sciences

### Year 2 - Semester 1

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Function
DA 1825	Dental Assisting Expanded Functions	5	Technical Course
MATH Elective	MATH 115 or higher: MATH 115, 120, 125*, 130, 131, 132, 154, 231, 233, 240	4	Liberal Arts & Sciences
DA 1860	Expanded Functions II	4	Technical Course
DA 1816	Radiology I	3	Technical Course

### Year 2 - Semester 2

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Function
DA 1845	Clinical Affiliations	8	Technical Course
DA 1855	Ethics and Jurisprudence	1	Technical Course
DA 1826	Radiology II	3	Technical Course
DA 1828	Nitrous Oxide Sedation	1	Technical Course

### Program Course List

Number	Title	Credits	Pre/Corequisites
DA 1813	Preclinical DA	2	PHIL 100 or PHIL 150 COMM 140 DA 1814 HLTH 1950 HLTH 1952
DA 1814	Chairside Dental Assisting I	4	HLTH 1950, HLTH 1952, DA 1812 DA 1813

			PHIL 100 or PHIL 150 COMM 140
DA 1815	Dental Materials	3	DA 1811, DA 1812
DA 1816	Radiology I	3	DA 1811, DA 1812, DA 1850
DA 1820	Dental Science I	3	Admission to the Dental Assisting Program
DA 1823	Dental Science II	2	DA 1811 Dental Science I DA 1812 Oral Anatomy
DA 1825	Dental Assisting Expanded Functions	5	DA 1814, DA 1815,
DA 1826	Radiology II	3	DA 1816
DA 1827	Dental Nutrition	1	Admission to the Dental Assisting Program
DA 1828	Nitrous Oxide Sedation	1	DA 1814 HLTH 1950 CPR - CPR must be valid throughout course. HLTH 1952 First Aid
DA 1845	Clinical Affiliations	8	Successful completion of all previous dental assisting courses. Valid Healthcare Provider CPR.
DA 1850	Dental Business Technologies	3	Admission to the Dental Assisting program.
DA 1860	Expanded Functions II	4	DA 1814 Chairside Dental Assisting I, DA 1815 Dental Materials
COMM 140	Interpersonal Communication	3	Accuplacer Reading Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090
DA 1855	Ethics and Jurisprudence	1	DA 1825 and DA 1855
ENGL 100	Composition	4	Next-Generation Accuplacer Reading minimum score of 250 (Classic Accuplacer, minimum of 75) or completion of READ 0090 or EAP 0095 with a C (2.0) or higher.
HLTH 1950	CPR	1	None
HLTH 1952	First Aid	1	
MATH 115	Concepts in Mathematics	4	MATH 0085 with a grade of C or higher, or a score of 76 or higher on the Elementary Algebra portion of the Accuplacer test.
PHIL 100	Ethics in Society	3	Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090.
PHIL 150	Medical Ethics	3	Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading portion of the

			Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher
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