DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM
Danville Community College

Dental Assisting is a one-year career studies certificate program that prepares students for employment as dental assistants in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Students enrolled in Danville Community College’s dental assisting program complete their coursework in one year while attend classes part-time. Dental assisting students start classes in the fall semester, continue with additional classes in the spring semester, and end with a 100-hour internship completed during the summer term.

# HOW TO GET STARTED

To enroll in DCC’s dental assisting program, a student should start by completing DCC’s application for admission (available online) and requesting **Basic Dental Assisting** as the intended program of study.
(**Note**: Being admitted to DCC as a Basic Dental Assisting student **does** **not** mean that a student is immediately eligible to take dental assisting courses. There are certain prerequisites that must be met *before* a student can begin taking dental assisting classes.)

## Application Procedure for DCC

\_\_\_\_1. Submit the DCC application – either in-person (Wyatt #108) or online at:

<http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/StudentServices/Admissions/admissions.htm>

\_\_\_\_2. Take the DCC placement test as needed

\_\_\_\_3. Submit official transcripts from other colleges or schools that could be used for transfer credits

For additional information about enrolling at DCC, visit: <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/studentServices/BecomeaStudent.htm>

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# SELECTIVE ADMISSION PROCESS for DENTAL ASSISTING

Each spring, twelve (12) applicants will be selected for the next group or *cohort* of dental assisting students to begin taking dental assisting courses in the upcoming fall semester. Once the 12 cohort spaces are filled, no additional students will be allowed to enroll in dental assisting classes for the upcoming year.

To be accepted into the next cohort, a student must submit a **Dental Assisting Application.** Applicants must meet all ***minimum requirements***for dental assisting, and strive to meet as many ***preferred selection criteria*** as possible.

**Minimum Requirements for basic dental assisting:**

1. Satisfactory completion of ENF 1 and/or ENF 2 when a need for developmental English courses is indicated by Virginia Placement Test scores. Students whose VPT scores indicate placement in
ENF 3/ENG111 are not *required* to complete the ENF 3 developmental English course for DCC’s dental assisting program.
2. Satisfactory completion of MTE 1, 2, and 3 when a need for these developmental math units is indicated by Virginia Placement Test scores.

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**Preferred Selection Criteria for basic dental assisting:**

The following selection criteria are considered ***highly*** important in determining which students will be selected for the dental assisting cohort:

1. Completion of a biology or anatomy lecture-and-lab course with a “C” or better
	1. From high school – within past 5 years
	2. From college – within past 10 years

*Rationale: Much of the material learned while taking a biology lab course will pertain directly to content covered in several of the dental assisting courses. Also, biology lab courses bear a striking resemblance to dental assisting lab tasks.*

1. Eight hours of job shadowing with a dental assistant

*Rationale: Applicants who complete 8 hours of job shadowing with a dental assistant will have at least some first-hand information with which to make an informed decision about a career in dental assisting.* **Note:** Students who have taken HLT195 will have done job shadowing as part of the course and do not need to do additional job shadowing.

The following selection criteria are considered ***moderately*** important in determining which students will be selected for the dental assisting cohort:

1. Completion of DCC’s SDV100 – *Student Success Skills* course (with a “C” or better)

*Rationale: Students will have learned study methods and other personal skills (e.g., time management) that will increase their chances for academic success.*

1. Completion of ENG111 – *English Composition* (with a “C” or better)

*Rationale: College-level reading and writing skills are essential for success in many careers, including dental assisting.*

In addition to the four selection criteria listed above, any student with a bachelor’s or associate’s degree from an accredited college or university will be given special consideration during the selection process.
A student’s GPA as well as grades in specific courses will also be considered during the selection process.

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The Basic Dental Assisting Program Application is available online at:

[http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/Departments/A&S/Academics/BDA.htm](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/Departments/A%26S/Academics/BDA.htm)

Applications may be submitted any time after January 1, but **no later** than May 1. Students who submit applications after May 1 will be placed on a wait-list.

Note: Students who become part of the dental assisting program cohort must earn grades of “C” or higher in basic dental assisting courses (DNA 100, 103, 109, 110, 113, 134) to remain active in program.

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**For additional information, contact:**

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or call 434-797-8485