



## **\*\*Dental Assisting\*\***

### **Program Information**

Revised 11/2025

Dear Prospective Dental Assisting Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about Stark State College's Dental Assisting program. This information packet represents the most up to date information in print, but please note that it is subject to change as needed to maintain a high-quality program. Currently, one class of 24 students is enrolled each year beginning in both the fall and spring semesters.

The Dental Assisting program is a limited enrollment program; therefore, students must apply and be accepted into the program *separately* from being enrolled into the college. The program uses a "rolling admissions" process which means there is no specific application deadline for each class. Students become "eligible" to apply when they meet specific admission criteria. Once students successfully complete the application process, they are accepted on a first-come, first-placed basis.

All students considering the **Dental Assisting Program** must:

1. **Apply to Stark State College** (if new to the college)
2. **CCP students can apply to the program before graduation from high school, but must have submitted a high school diploma prior to the Program Orientation and prior to the first day of technical course work.**
3. **Take the Accuplacer exam** (if not taken previously)
  - a. The test will determine whether or not you will need to enroll in any pre-requisite course (IDS 102) BEFORE you begin the program courses.
  - b. The test can be taken any time after you apply to the College, but it is strongly recommended that you complete it before your first advising appointment. This will allow your advisor to give you the best advice towards scheduling other courses.
    - **Note:** *Transfer students and/or students who have taken the ACT within the last two calendar years may not be required to take Accuplacer exam. An admissions counselor can discuss the details with you.*
  - c. Call **330-494-6170 ext. 4977** for test dates and times.
  - d. There is no fee for this test and you do not need to study for it.
4. **All applicants must complete BCI/FBI Background Checks to apply to the program.**

Go to: <https://www.starkstate.edu/about/security/background-check-information/> to schedule your background checks

**Make an Academic Advising Appointment**

  - If you have never taken a credit course at Stark State College, make an appointment with an Admissions Counselor at 330-494-6170 or 800-797-8275.
  - If you are a current student at the College, make an appointment with the Dental Assisting program coordinator by calling 330-494-6170 ext. 5047.

We look forward to your continued interest in Stark State College's Dental Assisting Program.

Sincerely,

The Dental Assisting Program Coordinator

# **Dental Assisting Program Purpose and Philosophy**

## **Dental Assisting Program Purpose**

The Dental Assisting Program is designed to prepare students to provide basic, adjunctive and supportive dental services alongside licensed dental professionals. The program prepares its graduates to become eligible for the certificate in Dental Assisting through the Commission on Ohio Dental Assistants. In addition, upon successful completion of the Dental Assisting radiography course, students can apply for the dental assistant radiographer certificate. The program provides an environment for learning the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for professional practice. Program curriculum is based upon biological, physical, behavioral, dental sciences, and general studies. The program promotes self-directed and service learning for personal and professional growth and development. It serves as a foundation for continued learning in an ever-changing field of dentistry.

## **Dental Assisting Program Philosophy**

The Dental Assisting Program will prepare students to demonstrate knowledge and clinical skills essential for the delivery of supportive dental services. Graduates will understand the role of the dental assistant as well as that of all other members of the dental health team and will be prepared to adapt to the changing demands of the oral health care profession.

The Program at Stark State College seeks to develop dental assistants who view their profession with confidence and pride, those who understand its territory and scope of practice and are able to influence the factors that affect the advancement of the profession.

## **Dental Assisting Program Goals**

1. Graduates will adhere to current legal regulations as stated in the Dental Practice Act and demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of dental care.
2. Graduates will effectively communicate the importance of oral health with patients, healthcare providers and the public regarding a variety of patient treatment needs.
3. Graduates will be prepared to collaborate with local communities to address oral health needs.
4. Graduates will provide high quality dental assisting functions.
5. Graduates will pursue advancements in their profession and further develop their skills through innovation and evidence-based knowledge.

**Stark State College (SSC)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for**  
**Prospective Dental Assisting Students**

**Q1. What kind of jobs can I get with this degree or certificate?**

A1. *You can work in a private practice, group practice, hospital dental clinic, free-clinic, specialty office, or public health setting.*

**Q2. What is the job outlook for graduates or certificate completers?**

A1. *According to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Outlook Handbook, Employment of dental assistants is projected to grow 6 percent from 2024 to 2034, faster than the average for all occupations. About 52,900 openings for dental assistants are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.*

**Q3. Where have recent graduates found employment?**

A3. *Most graduates find in employment in private practice or group practice settings. Some have found employment in specialty offices or hospital dental settings.*

**Q4. How many credit hours are required to complete the program?**

A4. *The Career Enhancement Certificate pathway has a total of 21 credit hours, while the Associate's Degree pathway has a total of 62-62 credit hours.*

**Q5. How long is the Dental Assisting program at Stark State College?**

A5. *Most students finish the Career Enhancement Certificate in as little as two semesters. Associate of Science Degree seeking individuals should expect to complete in five semesters as a full-time student.*

**Q6. Is it possible to work full-time while going to school?**

A6. *It is possible to work full-time while in this program because classes are generally once a week. However, students need to balance their study time while also keeping up with attendance in the program. Most students reduce hours of employment while in the program.*

**Q7. Is this a full-time or part-time program?**

A7. *This program is designed with flexibility within your schedule. You are given the opportunity to proceed at your own pace. Most students complete the degree track within two years or complete the career enhancement in two semesters*

**Q8. Are there scholarships or financial aid options specifically for this program?**

A8. *There are some opportunities for scholarships and financial aid is also an option for this program.*

**Q9. Do my credits from this program transfer to other colleges or universities?**

A9. *Yes. Many courses included in the curriculum are transferable. Technical courses must be evaluated by the institution where a student wishes to transfer. Contact the Department Chair for information about degree completion options.*

**10. Can I get credit for any of my current certifications or prior work experience?**

A10. *Yes, you can get credit for the technical courses in the program if you are a CDA, RDA, or CODA credentialed assistant. This means you would only be required to take the non-technical courses to earn an Associate of Science degree.*

**Q11. How many students are in each class?**

A11. *A full class includes 24 students. Student to teacher ratio is typically 6-7:1 in each of the courses.*

**Q12. Are there any opportunities for internships, co-ops, or hands-on experience?**

A12. *Yes, there are many lab activities in each of the technical courses to offer hands-on experiences. Further, observation hours in dental offices are required in the first semester to help prepare for clinical placement in the second semester.*

**Q13. Are there any pre-requisites prior to admission into the Dental Assisting program?**

A13. *Yes. The Accuplacer exam scores and/or prerequisites are established for the program. The Accuplacer exam reading scores must be met with a score of 80 or better. IDS102 or testing out with a reading score of 80 is the pre-requisite for the program.*

**Q14. Are the BCI/FBI background checks necessary prior to applying to the Dental Assisting program?**

A14. *Yes. Both BCI/FBI background checks must be completed and eligibility is verified. The cost for the background check is currently \$70.00 for both. These expire after one year.*

**Q15. What are the other requirements?**

A15. *Official high school and/or college transcripts submitted to the college upon being accepted to Stark State College.*

**Q16. Are classes in person, online, or both?**

A16. *Most dental classes are in person with exception of one online course. Some aspects of lecture for the courses are offered online. Attendance is required for each class meeting.*

**Q17. What is the cost of the program?**

A17. *Cost will depend on level of education completed. Please see the information packet for details.*

**Q18. What resources are available to help me succeed in the program (e.g. tutoring, career services)?**

A18. *The college has many student recourses to help you succeed in college. If you are having difficulty directly within the program, the program coordinator or instructor is available to schedule a meeting or tutor session when necessary.*

**Q19. What resources can I use to assist me in exploring the Dental Assisting profession?**

A19. *Visit [www.ADAA.org](http://www.ADAA.org), [www.ADA.org](http://www.ADA.org), [www.DANB.org](http://www.DANB.org), Occupational Outlook Handbook at [www.bls.gov/ovc](http://www.bls.gov/ovc) or the Commission on Dental Assistants Certification. You may also want to visit the Career Services Office on campus in room M104 of the Gateway Center.*

**20. What is a Dental Assistant?**

A20. *Dental assistants enable dentists and hygienists to care for many patients. The dental assistant works directly with the dentist and/or the hygienist during procedures. Dental assistants have a variety of roles within the dental office including front office duties.*

**Q21. Is Dental Assisting a field for women only?**

A21. *No. Although the majority of dental assistants are women, men are very successful in this field too. Many dental assistants find opportunities in oral surgery offices, hospital clinics, as well as dental offices.*

**Q22. Are there any personal attributes I should consider when thinking about Dental Assisting as a career?**

A22. *Yes. Prospective student should have the ability to succeed in a science-based curriculum, relate well to people on a one-on-one basis, feel comfortable working in close proximity with people of all ages and backgrounds, be patient, and have good time-management skills.*

**Q23. Are there any specific physical requirements necessary to perform Dental Assisting functions?**

A23. *A dental assistant must have use of both hands, dexterity in the fingers and tactile sensitivity to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental hand pieces, and to operate dental equipment. The use of feet is necessary to manipulate a rheostat for hand pieces and other adjunct dental equipment. The body must be able to work from a dental operator stool in order to perform dental procedures. The ability to sit and stand for a duration of time is also necessary. Other specific requirements include color discrimination (differentiation of various shades of color and gradations from black to white); manual dexterity/motor coordination (discern changes in surface textures by manipulating dental instruments, control exertion of hand/finger pressure); hand-eye coordination (transfer of visual input into motor output); physical communications (perceive sound through telephone, hear commands through operator's face mask, discern blood pressure sounds); visual acuity (identify the working ends of various dental instruments and implements at a two foot distance); form/spatial ability (view in three- dimensional relationships, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to another, discriminate intricate measurements); and language development (speak clearly so that a patient understands his/her dental condition).*

**Q24. Is there an application deadline?**

A24. *No. Applicants will be accepted when a candidate completes the eligibility (pre-application) requirements.*

**Q25. What does "eligibility" mean?**

A25. *A student has met the special pre-application requirements and is ready to apply for admission to the program.*

**Q26. Do all eligible applicants get accepted into the program?**

A26. *Yes. Acceptance to the program is based solely on meeting the requirements and submitting a complete application. Applicants are not placed in competition with one another. However, admission is granted on a space available basis. Eligible applicants are guaranteed admission but may be admitted to a succeeding class.*

**Q27. When do students start the Dental Assisting program?**

A27. *Students are accepted into the program in the spring and fall semesters. Total number of students accepted are 24 in each semester.*

**Q28. Are summer dental assisting courses offered?**

A28. No. Summer courses are not offered for students who wish to take dental assisting courses.

**Q29. What hours will I be in attendance at school while enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program?**

A29. The schedule varies during the year. Lecture and lab classes are scheduled simultaneously with the course offering. Day and evening courses are available. Each Class meet once per week.

**Q30. Can credits earned in the program be transferred or applied to a bachelor's degree?**

A30. Yes. Many courses included in the curriculum are transferable. Technical courses must be evaluated by the institution where a student wishes to transfer. Contact the Department Chair for information about degree completion options.

**Q31. Are Dental Assistants at risk for infectious diseases, such as AIDS?**

A31. Dental assistants who practice according to the infection control guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and by doing so are at no greater risk than any other health care professional.

**Q32. Can out of state students apply and be accepted?**

A32. Yes. The same criteria and procedures apply.

**Q33. How do I apply to the Dental Assisting program?**

A33. Students must register to become a student of the college PRIOR to applying to any program at Stark State College. Initial steps include:

- Complete the college application
- Complete the Accuplacer exam
- Submit official high school and/or college transcripts to the college
- Complete BCI/FBI background checks in the SSC security office
- Complete the program application and meet the eligibility requirements

**Q34. Do I need health insurance to participate in service-learning activities?**

A34. You may or may not need health insurance to participate, each site has individual requirements

**Q35. Who should I contact for more information?**

A35. Contact the Program Coordinator:

**Jill Kohler, MS, RDH, CDA, FADHA**

[jkohler@starkstate.edu](mailto:jkohler@starkstate.edu), or

330-966-5458 ext. 5047

**NOTE:**

- The College reserves the right to change, without notice, statements concerning rules, policies, fees, curricula, courses, or other matters.
- Stark State College is committed to equal opportunity for all and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, military status, pregnancy, disability, age, genetic information, or sexual orientation.
- SSC strives to enroll a diverse representation of students within the Health Sciences programs. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

## **Dental Assisting Program Course Sequence and Descriptions**

In addition to the courses listed below, the current full-time and part-time program curriculum sheets can be referenced by going to the following link:

<https://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/dental-assisting/>

### **Required Curriculum Sequence**

Dental Assisting courses must be taken in a designated sequence of the curriculum plan. All required non-technical courses can be taken prior to, concurrently, or after the completion of the Dental Assisting specific curriculum plan, however some of the non-technical courses are needed to earn the Career Enhancement Certificate. Dental Assisting Techniques I (DAS121) must be taken prior to Dental Assisting Techniques II (DAS123).

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **SSC101: Student Success Seminar**

This course is designed to aid students in gaining the skills necessary for academic success at Stark State College (SSC). Topics include learning styles, critical thinking, time management, study and test-taking techniques, communication skills, and a variety of personal development strategies. Students will learn how to access and use SSC resources such as mystarkstate, the College's Learning Management System (LMS), Digital Library, Writing Center, Career Development, advising, tutoring, and other College support services. This course also fosters connections between students, their respective academic divisions, and their classmates. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to incorporate into their degrees or certificate programs the tools and skills necessary to be academically and professionally successful.

#### **ITD122: Computer Applications for Professionals**

Computer Applications for Professionals familiarizes students with major Windows-based applications software and introduces the Windows operating system, the Windows networking environment, and practices file and folder maintenance. The focus of the course is to provide students with basic understanding and competence in industry-standard word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation software applications that are used to solve scientific, business, and engineering problems. TAG OBU003 approved, effective summer 2021.

#### **DAS121: DENTAL ASSISTING TECHNIQUES I**

The student is introduced to the fundamentals of working in a dental office as a chairside assistant. Concepts and techniques of basic equipment, four-handed dentistry, oral evacuation, instrument identification and proper use are presented. Oral examination, charting, medical/dental histories, and infection control procedures are emphasized. Dental specialties are introduced. Students complete Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for the dental healthcare provider certification and observe in dental offices or clinic settings

#### **DAS122: DENTAL ASSISTING RADIOGRAPHY**

This course focuses on the principles of radiology, x-ray production, radiation safety, practices and hazards. Radiographic techniques, interpretation, mounting, and evaluation processes are presented. Radiographic processing procedures, chemicals, and equipment are emphasized.

**DAS123: DENTAL ASSISTING TECHNIQUES II**

This course builds on knowledge gained in Dental Assisting Technologies I (DAS121). Principles and skills of chairside assisting are further developed through demonstration and student partner practice. Ethics and jurisprudence, health and safety considerations for basic infection control, dental emergencies, common pharmacology used in dentistry, and oral disease processes are emphasized. Students receive instruction in dental office communication, business techniques, and employment preparation. Students participate in directed clinical practice.

**DAS124: DENTAL ASSISTING MATERIALS**

This course focuses on the physical and chemical properties of various materials used in the dental field. Emphasis is placed on manipulation and practical application of dental materials chair side and in the laboratory.

**DAS 128: INTRO to DENTAL TERMINOLOGY and BASIC ANATOMY**

This course introduces basic dental terminology, concepts, and anatomy of the head and neck providing foundational knowledge needed for further studies in dental auxiliary procedures.

**What must I do to be accepted into the Dental Assisting Program?**

1. Apply to SSC and complete a placement test (Accuplacer exam or recent ACT).
2. Have a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate.
3. Complete IDS102 or demonstrate proficiency in college reading through the Accuplacer placement assessment or ACT scores.
4. Complete BCI and FBI Background checks by going to:  
<https://www.starkstate.edu/about/security/background-check-information/> and receiving a result of "Eligible to Apply".

***If you are new to Stark State College and have questions about the program admissions process, contact an admissions counselor. If you are a current student and have questions about the admissions process, contact your assigned academic advisor (refer to the "My Stuff" tab on mySSC).***



**STARK STATE COLLEGE**  
**PROJECTED COST OF THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM**  
**25-26 SCHOOL YEAR – updated November 2025**  
Degree Type (AAS, AS, CERT, CEC)

COST ITEM	Dental Assisting	AMOUNT
<b>Tuition - \$199.60 per credit hour</b>	62-63 credits AS 21 credits CEC	Total credit hours AS = \$12,995.20 13,204.80 Total credit hours CEC = \$4401.60
<b>Web Cam</b>		\$35.00*
<b>Processing Fee – charged at the time of admission to the College (one time fee)</b>		\$95.00
<b>Security and Maintenance Fee – charged each semester, if taking 4 credit hours or more</b>	\$35.00/semester	\$70/ for 2 semesters \$175.00/ for 5 semesters
<b>Uniforms (scrubs, lab coat, shoes, safety glasses) - estimated amount, purchased for 1<sup>st</sup> semester of program</b>		\$150-\$179**
<b>ID badges – purchased upon admission to the program</b>		\$10.00/1 badge \$20.00/2 badges
<b>Textbooks/course access – estimated total amount</b>	DA AS DA CEC	\$3,846.50 \$708.50 (Used)—911.85(New)
<b>Lab supplies/course materials – estimated total amount</b> <i>Allied Dental Health Professions Facility Fee</i>		\$700.00
<b>Health Requirements (physical, immunizations, drug screen, BLS Certification) will vary based on student immunization status and health insurance coverage</b>		\$571.00*
<b>BLS CPR Certification</b>		\$100.00*
<b>Liability Insurance – charged per academic year</b>	\$15.00/year	\$30.00
<b>ADAA Association Membership (Optional for CEC)</b>		\$45.00-\$55.00
<b>Ohio State Dental Board Radiographer's Certificate</b>		\$32.00*
<b>Commission on Ohio Certification Exam</b> <b>AMT-Registered Dental Assistant Exam</b> <b>(Optional Certification)</b>		\$65.00^ \$150.00^^
<b>BCI/FBI fingerprinting – must be updated yearly</b>	\$70.00/year	\$140.00
<b>Graduation Expenses</b>		\$0
<b>Distance Learning fee</b> W3 and W4 \$10.00 per credit hour W2 \$5.00 per credit hour	This amount was only calculated into the total as it relates to the dental assisting courses. Students may have the choice for web-based options with the non-technical courses.	DAS121 \$50.00 DAS123 \$50.00 DAS128 \$20.00
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>DA AS</b> <b>DA CEC</b>	<b>\$19,818.20-\$20,365.15</b> <b>\$7,273.10 -\$7,610.45</b>

***This is an estimate of program costs and is subject to change.***

*\*These are an estimate only. Each student may have different insurances, co-pays, etc. Students should expect to obtain a physical and maintain immunizations as applicable for the state licensure/certification process, as well as meeting any conditions set forth through the clinical placement process. These may differ depending on the site you are placed with for clinical training.*

*\*\*PPEs are a required part of both pre-clinical and clinical attire, and students should expect to incur expenses related to proper dress for each pre-clinical and clinical course.*

*^Current fee for the exam administered by The Commission on Dental Testing exam in Ohio.*

*^^Current fee for the exam administered by the American Medical Technologists*