



Dental Assisting Admissions and Program Information 2027-2028

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Assisting program at Mitchell Community College. Admission to the program is **selective**, and applications are accepted from September 30 until May 30 each year. The application process is as follows:

- Complete the Mitchell Community College application process for general college admission.
- Send all official high school and college transcripts to the Mitchell Community College Admissions Office.
- If recommended, schedule and take placement tests.
- After completing the College's admission process, you will meet with an advisor in Student Services for general advising and subsequently be assigned to a faculty advisor for the Dental Assisting program.
- Your next step will be to set up an appointment with your assigned faculty advisor to determine your eligibility to apply for the program. When eligible, schedule the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) test (link will be sent to you by your assigned advisor).

If eligible to apply, complete the additional, specific Dental Assisting Program application with your assigned advisor. Please remember, completion of general college admission requirements does not constitute an application to the Dental Assisting Program.

Thank you again for your interest in our program. If you have questions concerning admission to the College, please contact one of the college admission specialists at (704) 978-5493 or admissions@mitchellcc.edu. If you have specific questions about the Dental Assisting Program, please feel free to contact me at (704) 978-5401.

Sincerely,

Meredith Parker

Meredith Parker NC DA II, C.D.A, M.B.A
Program Chair- Dental Assisting
Mparker2@mitchellcc.edu
(704) 878-3200 EXT 5401



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Mitchell Community College Dental Assisting Application

Program Overview

Mitchell Community College's Dental Assisting Program (D45240) supports selective admissions standards to ensure that students entering the program are well-prepared for the rigors of clinical and academic success in the dental assisting profession. The program's admission and graduation requirements are structured to meet professional and educational standards while supporting the competencies necessary for successful employment and national certification.

Program Goals:

The Dental Assisting Program at Mitchell Community College working with all communities of interest is to prepare competent entry-level dental assistants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

In the Cognitive Domain, students will receive required curriculum from qualified instructors in formats to include lecture, visual aids, and assessments that will accommodate varied learning styles and ensure a document mastery of content. Communities of interest have input on the curriculum's appropriateness through survey, interview, and participation in the Advisory Committee.

In the Affective Domain, students are presented with scenarios, role play, and classroom activities to demonstrate communication and critical thinking skills to prepare them for situations they will experience in the workplace.

In the Psychomotor Domain, students are offered the opportunity for "hands on" skills training and assessment both in the classroom laboratory setting and in the clinical setting to verify competency as an "entry level dental assistant."

We strive to instill the qualities of professionalism, integrity, and responsibility in our students to prepare them for enhanced career opportunities in the dental assisting community within a changing global environment.

These criteria are used to evaluate the achievement of the program goals and outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this program, the student should be able to:

- Perform as a competent entry-level Dental Assistant in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients and coworkers in the role of a dental assistant.
- Perform as a dental team member who demonstrates competence in chairside skills necessary to contribute to patient care.
- Display professionalism.

Goal #1:

At least 70% of those entering the program each year will graduate from the program within one year.



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Goal #2:

At least 70% of those who choose to take the Dental Assisting National Board exam each year will be successful in achieving certification.

Goal #3:

At least 70% of graduates will be successful in obtaining employment or continuing an educational pathway within 6 months of graduation.

The program's intent is to support the mission and purpose of the College and to uphold the values and vision established for it. As reflected in the program goals, the Dental Assisting program strives for quality educational experience that will enable students to pursue employment opportunities as qualified professionals that will act responsibly and honestly, maintaining integrity and respect for all.

Admission Requirements

Mitchell Community College maintains an open-door admissions policy for general enrollment; however, entrance into the Dental Assisting Program is selective and requires completion of additional criteria beyond general college admission. The program admits students annually, with application submissions accepted from September 15th to May 15th of each year. Admission requirements are published annually by January 15th to ensure transparency and adequate preparation time for prospective students.

General Admission Prerequisites

To be considered for admission to the Dental Assisting Program, applicants must:

- Complete the general college admissions process, including:
- Apply to the institution through the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) (<https://www.cfnc.org>).
- Complete residency determination through Residency Determination Services (RDS) to determine your residency status for tuition purposes (<https://www.ncresidency.org>).
- Submit all official high school and college transcripts to the institution.
- Take the required placement testing (if applicable).
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Students transferring from another institution must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 from their most recent institution of attendance.
- Complete prerequisite science coursework
- High school or college-level biology with a minimum grade of 'C.'
- Minimum Assessment Technology Institute Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) score of 40.7.
- **Note:** Higher scores on the ATI TEAS Test receive additional ranking points for competitive selection.



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Program-Specific Requirements

- Attend the mandatory Dental Assisting Program Information Session.
- Complete an eight-hour job shadowing experience in a dental office with official documentation verification.
- Meet with the Dental Assisting Program Chair or faculty member to discuss program requirements and the application process.
- Post-Acceptance Requirements.
- Once conditionally accepted, students must fulfill the following criteria to secure enrollment:
- Health and Safety Clearances
- Background check and drug screening through DISA

Immunization Requirements

Immunization records documenting immunization through vaccination or positive antibody titer ONLY to the following:

- Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella – two doses
- Varicella (Chicken Pox) - two doses
- Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis - 1 Tdap/TD within 10 years
- Tuberculosis- QuantiFERON – TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus)
- Hepatitis B:
 - **1. Two-Dose Heplisav-B Series**
 - Consists of **2 doses**
 - Administered **at least 4 weeks apart**
 - Series is considered complete once both doses are received
 - **OR**
 - **2. Three-Dose Hepatitis B (Engerix-B or Recombivax HB) Series**
 - Consists of **3 doses**
 - Administered at **0, 1, and 6 months**
 - All three doses must be completed to satisfy the requirement
- Basic Life Support (CPR) certification for Healthcare Providers from the [American Heart Association](#).

Additional Requirements

The student must:

- Maintain personal health insurance coverage.
- Acquire a computer and reliable internet that meet Mitchell Community College's [Essential Technology for Online Learning](#) recommendations.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate with a Dental Assisting Diploma, students must complete all program requirements, demonstrating both academic achievement and clinical competency.



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Academic Requirements

Complete all required coursework totaling 47 credit hours, including:

- General education courses (6 credit hours)
- Core dental assisting courses (36 credit hours)
- Supporting biological sciences coursework (5 credit hours)
- Achieve a minimum grade of 'B' or better in all DEN-prefixed courses.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout the program duration.

Clinical Competency Requirements

- Demonstrate competency in core technical performance standards, including:
 - Critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
 - Psychomotor skills essential for dental procedures.
 - Professional communication with patients and healthcare teams.
 - Interpersonal skills necessary for collaborative dental practice environments.
 - Fulfill clinical requirements as specified by the program and affiliated clinical sites, including successful completion of:
 - DEN 106: Clinical Practice I (6 credit hours)
 - DEN 107: Clinical Practice II (5 credit hours)

Professional Preparation

- Complete all program assessment requirements as outlined in the program's comprehensive assessment plan.
- Demonstrate professional behavior consistent with the ethical standards of dental assisting and community expectations.

Post-Graduation Opportunities

Upon successful program completion, graduates are prepared for immediate employment and professional advancement with the following options:

- Classifies as a North Carolina Dental Assistant II (DA-II), which enables the graduate to perform expanded functions in dental practices.
- Register and sit for the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Examination to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA).
- Build on foundational knowledge through continued education in practice management, or enter a dental hygiene, D.D.S., or D.M.D. program.

These comprehensive admission and graduation requirements ensure that Mitchell Community College's Dental Assisting program produces competent, professional graduates who meet industry standards and are prepared for successful careers in dental healthcare.



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Please refer to the following if you have questions about these areas:

- Statesville Student Services: Mon-Fri (9 am - 4 pm) (704) 878-3200
- Admission: Admissions@mitchellcc.edu
- Advising: Advising@mitchellcc.edu
- Accessibility Services: MElder@mitchellcc.edu
- Financial Aid: FinancialAid@mitchellcc.edu
- Registrar & Student Records: Records@mitchellcc.edu
- Student Support Services: StudentSupport@mitchellcc.edu
- Placement Testing: PlacementTest@mitchellcc.edu
- Financial Aid: (704) 978-5435
- Placement or TEAS Testing: (704) 878-3242

The following courses or equivalent may be taken before entering the Dental Assisting Program:

- COM 120 - Intro to Interpersonal Communications
- BIO 163 - Basic Anatomy and Physiology
- HUM 115 - Critical Thinking



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Dental Assisting Program Application

Applicants are ranked according to the following criteria:

Content	Applications are accepted annually from September 30th until May 30th.			Points
GPA 2.5 Minimum Cumulative	Overall GPA 2.5 (can average from several institutions) For high school, use unweighted, cumulative GPA			Required No points
High School Biology OR College Biology (C or better)	Grade	Year	School	Required No points
Job Shadow of Dental Assistant for 8 hours	Submit Job Shadow Verification Form**			Required No points
Attended Mandatory Information Session	Date 1: __ Date 2: __ Date 3: __ Date 4: __ Date 5: __			Required No points
ATI TEAS Total Score 1 point received for every score point above 40.7 Minimum Score of 40.7 required	Provide an Individual Performance Profile showing a breakdown of all areas. (Scores valid for 3 years) Points = Total TEAS Score			Required Points
The following items are optional opportunities to earn additional points toward the Dental Assisting Program application ranking process.				
An Overview of Dental Anatomy	www.dentalcare.com		1pt.	
Environmental Infection Prevention and Control	www.dentalcare.com		1pt.	
Hand Hygiene	www.dentalcare.com		1pt	
Introduction to Infection Prevention	www.dentalcare.com		1pt.	



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CPR Certification		American Heart Association BLS Healthcare Provider ONLY		3pt		
Post-Secondary Education		Certificate/ Diploma =1	Associate Degree =3	Bachelor's Degree=5		
					List School	Points
Completed Courses	COM 120 or equivalent	A = 4	B = 3	C = 2		
	BIO 163 Or BIO 168 and BIO 169	A = 4	B = 3	C = 2		
	Any ACA Course	A = 4	B = 3	C = 2		
Critical and Creative Thinking	HUM 115 (preferred)	A = 4	B = 3	C = 2		
	MUS 110, MUS 112, ART 111, ART 114, or ART 115 (accepted)					
					Total Points	

All documentation must be supplied by the application deadline to receive points.

*In the event of a tie: The TEAS Score will be used first, and the application submission date second.

** Any unprofessional behavior observed during the required shadowing experience may result in withdrawal of the application from consideration for the current application cycle.



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Estimated Expenses

First Semester	Estimated Cost
Tuition In State \$76 per credit hour DEN Courses (15 credit hours) BIO 163 (5 credit hours)	Dental \$1140 General Education \$380
Student Activity Fee \$2.50 per credit hour (1-8)	\$25 for 9 or more hours
Student Access Fee	\$25
Technology Fee \$3 per credit hour	\$48 for 16 or more credit hours
Accident Insurance Fee	\$1.25
Administrative Fee	\$5
Liability Insurance	\$13
CPR	\$80
Physical and Immunizations	varies
Uniform	\$250 includes embroidery/Shoes \$50
Dental Model and teeth	\$330.00
Castle Branch Immunization Tracker	\$75
Castle Branch Background and Drug Screen	\$100
Books	\$500.00
Semester Total	\$3022.25

*Costs are the highest during the first semester of the program. Fees and expenses noted are estimates and are subject to change.



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Second Semester	Estimated Cost
Tuition In State \$76 per credit hour	
DEN Courses (8 credit hours)	Dental \$608
General Education (3 credit hours)	General Education \$228
Student Activity Fee \$2.50 per credit hour (1-8)	\$25 for 9 or more hours
Student Access Fee	\$25
Technology Fee \$3 per credit hour	\$33
Accident Insurance Fee	\$1.25
Administrative Fee	\$5
Books	\$475.00
Trajecsys- Clinical Management	\$75.00
Semester Total	\$1475.25
Third Semester	Estimated Cost
Tuition In State \$76 per credit hour	
DEN Courses (13 credit hours)	Dental \$988
General Education (3 credit hours)	General Education \$228
Student Access Fee	\$25
Technology Fee \$3 per credit hour	\$48 for 16 or more credit hours
Accident Insurance	\$1.25
Administrative Fee	\$5
Books	\$200
Semester Total	\$ 1495.25

An estimate of the total program costs for the program is approximately \$ 5,992.75 (based on in-state tuition).



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Dental Assisting Diploma (D45240)

Semester I

Prefix	Course	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
BIO 163	Basic Anatomy & Physiology	3	2	0	5
DEN 100	Basic Orofacial Anatomy	2	0	0	2
DEN 101	Preclinical Procedures	3	7	0	7
DEN 102	Dental Materials	2	4	0	4
DEN 111	Infection/Hazard Control	2	0	0	2

Semester II

Prefix	Course	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
COM 120	Intro to Interpersonal Com	3	0	0	3
DEN 103	Dental Sciences	2	0	0	2
DEN 104	Dental Health Education	2	2	0	3
DEN 105	Practice Management	2	0	0	2
DEN 106	Clinical Practice I	2	0	12	6
DEN 112	Dental Radiography	2	3	0	3

Semester III

Prefix	Course	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
HUM 115	Critical Thinking	3	0	0	3
DEN 107	Clinical Practice II	1	0	12	5

Total Semester Credit Hours = 47

*Clinical days and times vary from week to week.

Grading Scale

Students must achieve a grade of "B" or better in each DEN course to progress.

Grading scale in DEN courses will be determined as follows:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below



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Core/Technical Performance Standards for Admission and Retention

Standards	Examples include but are not limited to:
Critical thinking ability for effective clinical reasoning and clinical judgment consistent with level of educational preparation.	• Initiate, evaluate, and update the plan of care. • Organize workload to manage time effectively and prioritize the delivery of patient care. • Use resources effectively to understand the evidence, context of situations, and perspectives to make logical and informed decisions.
Interpersonal skills sufficient for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families, and groups.	• Maintain client confidentiality/privacy. • Establish and maintain professional and ethical relationships with others, and seek assistance when needed. • Ability to accept constructive criticism. • Display accountability and personal integrity, understanding that student behavior impacts others. • Ability to respond to stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice, particularly anger, frustration, and excitement, appropriately. • Ability to operate in diverse cultural settings.
Communication skills are sufficient for verbal and written professional interactions.	• Explain treatments, procedures, initiate health teaching, and verify patient consents to care. • Document and interpret procedural notes and patient responses. • Display the capacity to engage in successful patient care. • Effectively communicate with coworkers, patients, and members of the interdisciplinary team. • Provide and receive reports on assigned patients. • Use proper communication techniques to provide support.
Psychomotor skills are sufficient for providing safe, effective care.	• Movement about patients' rooms, and/or workspaces to complete patient treatment. • Administer rescue procedures- cardiopulmonary resuscitation. • Demonstrate ability to work and stand for prolonged periods of up to 8 hours. • Calibration and use of equipment safely. • Perform procedures necessary to safely seat, transfer, or assist patients. • Perform 4-handed dentistry, while mixing materials proficiently. • Prepare and administer treatments. • Perform basic Dental Assisting skills as directed. • Must be able to lift 30 pounds safely.



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Assessment skills sufficient for providing safe, effective care.	• Ability to perform clinical assessment. • Ability to respond to patient care as needed. • Ability to observe the patient's condition and responses to treatments. • Assess a dentist's needs for procedures. • Read and interpret the healthcare provider's requests. • Read monitors, medication labels, and other dental equipment accurately. • Ability to take radiographic images to prepare for procedures.
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Accessibility Statement

The College is committed to providing access to facilities and reasonable accommodation in the instructional process, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Mitchell Community College does not discriminate, nor does it approve of discrimination against students or applicants based on race, color, gender, age, national origin, disability, religion, pregnancy, veteran's status, or political belief/affiliation. This policy of non-discrimination applies to all programs, support services, and activities. Mitchell Community College is committed to providing equal access to technology, including the Internet and school web pages.

Infection Control Policy Statement

The Dental Assisting program of Mitchell Community College complies with the occupational health standard for bloodborne pathogens (OSHA Standard 29 C.F.R. 1910.1030). All dental assisting faculty and students must abide by the available Infection Control Policy.

This standard's requirements include classifying employees in one of three categories based on their potential risk of occupational exposure from blood, body fluids, tissues, spills, or splashes. On this basis, dental assisting students and faculty are classified in Category I because their required tasks routinely involve the possibility of contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM). Therefore, appropriate measures are required for students and faculty when engaged in any laboratory, preclinical, or clinical activity that potentiates the risk of exposure.

Financial Aid/Scholarship Information

Mitchell Community College awards scholarships. To be considered, students must complete a free application for federal student aid available on the web at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> and a Mitchell Community College Scholarship Application available on the College's website or at the financial aid department in the Student Services Center. Students should direct any questions about scholarships to Rachel Knox, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, at (704) 878-3255 or email rknnox@mitchellcc.edu.

Professional Classification & State Authorization Disclosure



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The Dental Assisting Program at Mitchell Community College prepares students to meet the educational requirements for Dental Assisting II (DA II) classification in the State of North Carolina as defined by the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.

Dental Assistants in North Carolina are classified rather than licensed by a state licensing board. Completion of this program does not result in professional licensure but prepares graduates to meet applicable state requirements for expanded function duties within North Carolina.

Licensure, certification, and classification requirements vary by state. Students who intend to seek employment outside of North Carolina are responsible for verifying the specific requirements of the state in which they plan to practice prior to enrollment.

Mitchell Community College has not made a determination regarding whether this program meets the professional requirements for Dental Assisting in states other than North Carolina.

For additional information regarding state requirements, students are encouraged to contact the appropriate state regulatory agency.