



GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE **DENTAL ASSISTING**

PROGRAM INFORMATION





DENTAL ASSISTING–Fall 2026

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Gulf Coast State College **Dental Assisting** Program! The dental faculty and staff are very proud of the exceptional program and state-of-the-art dental facility that we offer and would like to assist you as you prepare for your academic career.

We offer a unique program that involves a combination of learning opportunities, including classroom lectures, laboratory sessions, clinic hours in a state-of-the-art dental facility located on campus, clinical rotations in local specialty practices, and some course opportunities available through distance education (online). The dental faculty and staff are dedicated, caring, and student-oriented. This will become evident as you become familiar with our programs.

If you have not already applied for admission to Gulf Coast State College, you should do this first by contacting the Enrollment Services office at 850.872.3892 or by visiting

https://connect.gulfcoast.edu/portal/application_portal. This will not only start the college admissions process but will also permit you access to a variety of services available at the college.

We also invite you to visit our program website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/dental-programs/dental-assisting/index.html> to better familiarize yourself with all aspects of our educational program.

Please read and review carefully the enclosed program information packet as it will assist you in the application process. *The program utilizes a selective admissions process with an application deadline of **11:59 p.m. (C.S.T.) on June 6, 2026**.* Completing the GCSC application and Dental Assisting application will confirm your interest and will enable the Academic Programs Specialist to create a file for other application documents as you return them. **IN ADDITION TO OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, THE TEST REQUIREMENT FORM MUST BE UPLOADED/SUBMITTED WITH YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me to schedule an advising appointment. We wish you much success as you begin to prepare for your future in the profession of Dental Assisting.

Sincerely,

Laurie Womble

Laurie Womble, MS, CDA
Coordinator of Dental Assisting
5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401-1058
Office: 850.769.1551, ext. 5842
Email: lwomble@gulfcoast.edu

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

GENERAL CAREER INFORMATION:

The **Dental Assistant** is a valuable member of the dental team offering a wide variety of clinical skills and knowledge to assist the dentist with the everyday operations of the dental office. The dental assistant commonly performs various tasks in the dental office such as assisting the dentist chair side with restorative or surgical procedures, providing oral evacuation during dental procedures, transferring instruments, mixing dental materials, exposing radiographs as directed by the dentist, taking or preparing materials for impressions, sterilization of instruments, obtaining and/or updating patient dental records, taking and recording vital signs, preparing operatories for dental treatment, and providing postoperative/general oral healthcare instructions. Other duties may also include, removing sutures, placing topical anesthetics, isolating teeth with the use of a dental dam, removal of excess cement, and applying occlusal sealants.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Dental Assisting program at Gulf Coast State College provides an intense curriculum of didactic and clinical training that prepares the student to work confidently in all areas of dentistry. Many Dental Assistants work in a private practice/office; however, there are many options available for alternate career paths:

Private Practice:

- Solo dental practices - practices with only one dentist
- Group practices - practices with two or more dentists

Specialty Dentistry:

- Oral and maxillofacial surgery - removal of teeth and correction of facial deformities
- Orthodontics - straightening teeth with braces or other appliances
- Endodontics - root canal treatment
- Periodontics - treatment of gum problems (gingival and periodontal diseases)
- Prosthodontics - replacement of lost teeth
- Pediatric dentistry - treatment of children
- Community-based dentistry - includes settings such as schools, health departments, and community clinics which focus on the prevention and treatment of public health dental problems

Other Employment Opportunities:

- Hospital dental clinics - assisting dentists in the treatment of bedridden patients
- Insurance Companies - claims processing
- Education/Teaching
- Dental product sales representative
- Research

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION:

The Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs offered by Gulf Coast State College were initiated in 1970 and 1996, respectively. The programs in dental assisting and dental hygiene are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and have been granted the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements.” The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312. 440.4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission’s web address is <https://coda.ada.org/>. The most recent evaluation of both programs was in October 2019; this was the Commission’s seventh site evaluation of the Dental Assisting Program and the fifth site evaluation of the Dental Hygiene Program.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Provide students with a quality hands-on educational approach in a state-of-the-art dental facility in order to cultivate experienced, skilled chair side assistants.
- Provide formal training for certification in radiology and expanded functions as required by the State of Florida.
- Prepare students to successfully pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination.
- Provide knowledge and skills of specialty areas of dentistry to prepare the student to work confidently and professionally in all areas of dentistry.
- Assist students with job placement.

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS INFORMATION:

The Dental Assisting program can accept twenty (20) students in the fall term. Students not selected are encouraged to enroll in developmental and/or general education courses in preparation for reapplying to the program for the following year. Students should receive advising and academic counseling from the dental program faculty regarding their status and academic planning.

Selection to the program is based on an objective cumulative point system. The point system is based on placement scores (i.e. PERT/ACT/SAT) and optional enhancement points. Placement scores must be current (within 2 years) and available by the published application due date. Enhancement points may include: general education courses completed with a “C” or better, recommendation letters (maximum of 2), earned postsecondary degrees, and a brief essay titled “Why I want to become a Dental Assistant.”

The Dental Assisting program is a rigorous, full-time program that requires commitment and hard work. All dental courses require at least a grade of “C” for successful completion and continuation in the program. For a portion of the laboratory learning experiences, it is necessary for students to practice on each other. If for any medical, dental, or personal reason a student is unable to participate, it will be the student’s responsibility to provide a patient for each of those sessions. In addition, students will be required to provide their own transportation to external site rotations (off campus) for assigned observations during the Spring and Summer semesters. Some of the external site assignments may include offices in areas outside of Bay County.

Students enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program are at risk for exposure to blood and body fluids, and the potential does exist for transmission of blood-borne and other infectious diseases during patient care activities. If you contract a blood borne infectious disease during your enrollment, appropriate health care experts will be consulted about your ability to continue to treat patients. Each applicant may view the Dental Assisting Program Policies on Bloodborne and Infectious Diseases upon request; this document is also available on the Dental Assisting Program website. The Dental Assisting faculty will discuss or answer any questions that an applicant may have concerning these policies.

INFORMATION YOU WILL FIND IN THIS PACKET:

- Program Curriculum
- Estimated Expense Sheet
- Application Checklist
- Minimum Placement Test Requirements
- Dental Assisting Observation / Work Experience Form

APPLICATION DUE DATES:

The Dental Assisting program *begins* in the **Fall Term**. Applications should be submitted online by **11:59 p.m. (C.S.T.) on June 6, 2026**, to be considered for fall enrollment. Students who enroll in the fall term can expect to complete the program in as little as 10 months.

CERTIFICATION/CREDENTIALS/EMPLOYMENT:

Graduates of the Dental Assisting program will receive a College Career Certificate (CCC) in Dental Assisting from Gulf Coast State College, an Expanded Functions course completion certificate, and a Radiology course completion certificate which legally permits the student to expose oral radiographic images and perform expanded duties as allowed by the State of Florida. Expanded duties are advanced intraoral tasks delegated by a dentist to a formally trained dental assistant who has demonstrated clinical competency. Graduates of the Dental Assisting program are eligible and encouraged to take the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination earning the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential which is commonly required for employment.

Regional employment opportunities vary depending on location and demand; consult with Dental program faculty for additional information regarding employment and compensation for our service area.

DENTAL PROGRAMS TRANSFER POLICY:

Applicants who are currently enrolled in another Dental Assisting Program and wish to investigate transferring to a GCSC Dental Program must 1) meet all current admission requirements, 2) apply at least two months prior to the expected date of enrollment, 3) notify the Program Coordinator in writing, stating anticipated entry date and reason for transfer, 4) provide evidence of successful completion of previous core dental courses from an American Dental Association accredited program, and 5) provide a letter from the Program Chair stating that the student is in good academic and clinical standing and is eligible to return to the Dental Assisting program they wish to transfer from. Acceptance of any transfer student will be dependent upon available resources.

Transferability of GCSC Dental Hygiene/Dental Assisting courses to another institution will be dependent upon the acceptance of the receiving institution.

DENTAL PROGRAMS ARTICULATION POLICY:

Students who elect to articulate must have completed said courses with a grade of “C” or better from an American Dental Association-accredited Dental Assisting Program within the last three years *and* have actively been working in the dental field at least 3 months prior to entrance in the program. If you feel you meet articulation requirements, please contact the Program Coordinator for more information.

FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS:

Students desiring financial assistance are directed to the office of Financial Aid located in the Enrollment Services building or by visiting <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid/index.html>.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS/DRUG TESTING

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students who are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Student applicants DO NOT complete background checks until directed to when provisionally accepted into the Dental Assisting program. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the Program Coordinator.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies

may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check.

Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards.

This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and

cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied

authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/> for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html.

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.

(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare profession is prohibited.

(2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the candidate or applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a pretrial diversion or drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;
 - (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;
 - (c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
 - (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or
 - (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that

felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

The following disqualifying offenses under current Florida law for healthcare licensure. The individual must not be awaiting final disposition of charges related to disqualifying offenses. The individual must not have been found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, nor have entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or guilty to any disqualifying offense. If the individual was adjudicated delinquent for a disqualifying offense, the record must have been sealed or expunged; otherwise, it remains a disqualifying factor.

The disqualifications apply to applicable offenses under:

Relevant provisions of Florida State law **or** Similar laws in other jurisdictions (laws from other states or countries the applicant originates from).

Specifically, the following pending charges or convictions per statutes: 393.135, 394.4593, 794.011, 825.1025, 826.04, 916.1075, 985.701, 415.111, 825.102, 827.03, 825.103, 827.05, 827.04, 782.04, 782.07, 787.01, 787.02, 784.011, 784.03, 827.071, ch. 796, ch. 800, 798.02, 825.103, 787.025, 874.05, ch. 812, 817.563, ch. 893, 944.47, 985.711, 806.01, 810.02, 810.14, 796, 843.01, 843.025, 847, 944.35(3), 775.21, 775.261 and 943.0435.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

****A physical examination, criminal background check (Level II), and drug screening WILL be required prior to the official program acceptance.***

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM
CURRICULUM PLAN / ESTIMATED TUITION 2026-2027

Courses: Fall Semester		Credit	Tuition	Lab Fee	Total
DEA 0020C Pre-Clinical Procedures		6 v	\$527.22	\$34.00	\$561.22
DEA 0800L Clinical Practice I Lab		1.5 v	\$131.81	\$63.00	\$194.81
DEA 0134 Introductory Pharm/Off Emer		2 v	\$175.74		\$175.74
DEA 0133 Introductory Microbiology		1 v	\$87.87		\$87.87
DES 1000 Dental Anatomy		2 c	\$197.50		\$197.50
DES 1010 Head & Neck Anatomy		2 c	\$197.50		\$197.50
DES 1100C Dental Materials		3 c	\$296.25	\$226.00	\$522.25
DES 1200 Dental Radiology I		2 c	\$197.50		\$197.50
DES 1200L Dental Radiology I Lab		1 c	\$98.75	\$184.00	\$282.75
DES 1320 Basic Communications & Human Relations		1 c	\$98.75		\$98.75
Fall Textbook Bundle					\$357.44
In- State			\$2,008.89	\$507.00	\$2,873.33
Out of State			\$7,522.82	\$507.00	\$8,387.26
Course: Spring Semester		Credit	Tuition	Lab Fee	Total
DEA 0132 Dental Nutrition		1 v	\$87.87		\$87.87
DEA 0801 Clinical Practice II		2 v	\$175.74		\$175.74
DEA 0801L Clinical Practice II Lab		6 v	\$527.22	\$41.00	\$568.22
DES 0501 Dental Practice Management		1 v	\$87.87		\$87.87
DES 0844 Dental Health Education		1 v	\$87.87		\$87.87
DES 1201 Dental Radiology II		1 c	\$98.75		\$98.75
DES 1201L Dental Radiology II Lab		1 c	\$98.75	\$44.00	\$142.75
DES 1404 Introductory Anat & Phys		2 c	\$197.50		\$197.50
DES 1832 Expanded Functions		1 c	\$98.75		\$98.75
DES 1832L Expanded Functions Lab		1 c	\$98.75	\$38.00	\$136.75
DEH 1400 Oral Pathology		2 c	\$197.50		\$197.50
Spring Textbook Bundle					\$188.22
In- State			\$1,756.57	\$123.00	\$2,067.79
Out of State			\$6,613.50	\$123.00	\$6,924.72
Course: Summer Semester		Credit	Tuition	Lab Fee	Total
DES 0850L Clinical Practice III		6.5 v	\$571.16		\$571.16
In- State			\$571.16		\$571.16
Out of State			\$2,207.53		\$2,207.53
Total In-State Estimated Costs			\$4,336.61		\$5,526.28
Total Out-of-State Costs			\$16,343.85	\$630.00	\$17,519.51

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM
ESTIMATED PROGRAM PLAN/EXPENSE SHEET 2026 – 2027

Estimated Additional Expenses	
2 Uniform Scrub Sets	\$ 350.00
Blood pressure cuff/Stethoscope/Thermometer/Safety glasses	\$ 75.00
PreCheck/Sentry MD (Drug Screening & Compliance tracker)	\$ 75.00
Background Check / Fingerprinting	\$ 85.00
Physical / Immunizations * <i>cost may vary</i>	\$ 75.00
CPR * <i>cost may vary</i>	\$ 80.00
Health Sciences Orientation Courses	\$ 102.00
HESI Exit Exam	\$ 62.00
Graduation Pin	\$ 75.00
Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)	\$ 450.00
TOTAL Estimated Additional Expenses	\$ 1,429.00
Tuition:	
In State:	
Per College Credit Hour	\$ 98.75
Per College Career Certificate Hour	\$ 87.87
Out of State:	
Per College Credit Hour	\$ 359.71
Per College Career Certificate Hour	\$ 339.62

Fees are subject to change by the Florida Legislature and the District Board of Trustees.
Consult with the current GCSC General Catalog



Application Deadline:
11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on June 6, 2026

**DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS PROCESS GUIDE**

IMPORTANT: *All items must be received and posted to the student's computer record prior to the published application deadline, or the application will be considered incomplete.*

THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM APPLICANT (STUDENT) MUST COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

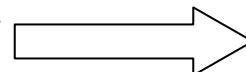
- ☐ **Apply for general admission to Gulf Coast State College (IF NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED)**
Call 850.872.3892 or visit GCSC Enrollment Services to receive information regarding the college admissions process. There is an application fee, and online applications are available at:
https://connect.gulfcoast.edu/portal/application_portal.
- Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the HLSC – AA, Health Sciences, General Education as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program. To request a major change, visit <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>, and click on Program Major Change Form.*
- ☐ **Provide Official High School Transcripts (or equivalent) to the Enrollment Services office.**
An **official** transcript is a transcript that is sent **directly** from the granting school/institution to Enrollment Services at Gulf Coast State College. Transcripts that have been in the student's possession (regardless of whether they are "sealed," stamped, or in a sealed envelope) are not considered official and will not be accepted.
- ☐ **Provide all Official College/University Transcripts to Enrollment Services for evaluation.**
Official transcripts must be submitted from ALL post-secondary educational colleges or universities attended and must display all periods of enrollment and/or degrees earned. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all college transcripts are evaluated prior to the application deadline.** Candidates will receive ranking points based on the cumulative GPA of all post-secondary coursework and general education requirements.
- ☐ **Demonstrate 10th-grade competency level in Math/Algebra, Reading, and Language.**
Students are required to take and demonstrate a minimum of a 10th-grade level in Math, Reading, and Language. Please refer to the *Minimum Placement Test Requirement Form* in this packet for additional information. Students must demonstrate competency using one of the following quantitative methods:

Subject	CLT	PERT	ACT	SAT	College Course
Math/Algebra	≥16	≥114	≥19	≥480 or 24 (old)	Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix MAC, MGF, or STA
English	≥38	≥103	≥17	≥490 in Critical Reading or 24 (old)	Completion of ENC 1101 with a grade "C" or better
Reading	≥38	≥106	≥19		

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the quantitative methods, and the test was not administered at Gulf Coast State College, the applicant must have an OFFICIAL score report sent to the GCSC testing office. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the scores are received and posted to their GCSC computer record prior to 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on June 6, 2026.**

Please consult the Placement Testing Schedule at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-support-tutoring/testing/index.html> or call 850.769.1551, ext. 3533 for additional information.

Checklist continued on the back of this sheet



Candidates will also receive ranking points based on submitted test scores. Therefore, it is advantageous to submit the highest test scores achieved.

***NOTE:** Students with a <10th- grade level or higher competency are still encouraged to apply for the program. If accepted, the student must still demonstrate a 10th-grade level competency in Math, Reading, and Language before completing the program to receive a College Career Certificate in Dental Assisting.

- ☐ **Submit a current application for the Dental Assisting Program ONLINE (including the required form)**
1. Placement Test Requirement Form

**WHILE NOT REQUIRED, ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENT POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO
APPLICANTS WHO SUBMIT:**

- ☐ **Brief Essay titled “Why I want to be a Dental Assistant”**- This essay should be one (1) page in length and preferably typed (12 font), describing what your career intentions are and why you are interested in becoming a dental assistant.
- ☐ **General Education Courses - not required** for the dental assisting program, but may be substituted for required courses:
- BSC 2085 & BSC 2085L (substitute for DES 1404)
 - MCB 2004 (substitute for DEA 0133)
 - SPC 1608 (substitute for DES 1320)
 - HUN 1201 (substitute for DEA 0132)
- ☐ **Previous dental assisting experience** - documented with a letter of verification from employer(s) on the employer(s) letterhead.
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation (no more than two)** - from dental health care provider(s), previous employer(s), or teacher(s)/instructor(s)
- ☐ **Postsecondary certificate/degrees achieved (i.e., AA, AS, AAS, BS, BA, MA, or MS)** - documented on official transcript(s)

DEADLINE TO APPLY ONLINE IS 11:59 P.M., C.S.T., ON JUNE 6, 2026

- Students will be notified of their acceptance status via Gulf Coast email within 7–10 days after the application deadline. It is the student’s responsibility to check their Gulf Coast email regularly for updates regarding acceptance.

After provisional acceptance, students are **REQUIRED** to complete:

(Specific information regarding requirements will be provided to you upon acceptance.)

1. Satisfactory fingerprint/criminal background check
2. Physical & Drug Screening
3. Report of Immunization History to include:
 - ✓ Hepatitis B vaccine series (or declination waiver)
 - ✓ Varicella vaccine (or declination waiver)
 - ✓ COVID-19 vaccine (or declination waiver)
 - ✓ PPD Mantoux/TB test
 - ✓ MMR
 - ✓ Tetanus (every 10 years)
 - ✓ Polio
4. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR certification) for HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
 - American Heart Association BLS Provider course
No other CPR course will be accepted.
5. Attend Interprofessional Healthcare Training to include the following lectures:
 - Prevention of Medical Errors
 - Domestic Violence
 - HIV/AIDS
 - HIPAA
 - Infection Control
 - Interprofessional Education (IPE)
 - Human Trafficking
 - Airborne Precautions w/Mask Fit

NOTE: Only application folders that are **current and complete** will be considered for selection. Materials from previous application attempts **will not** be “rolled over” to a new application year. It is the **applicant’s** responsibility to make sure his/her application folder is complete prior to the deadline. Late applications will only be considered if a sufficient pool of qualified applicants does not exist.

Please contact one of the following if you have any further questions:

Laurie Womble, BHS, CDA
Coordinator of Dental Assisting
Gulf Coast State College
G. Tapper Health Sciences Bldg. Room 108
Email: lwomble@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850.769.1551, ext. 5842

Connie “Crickett” Pimentel
Academic Programs Specialist
Gulf Coast State College
Email: HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850.913.3311

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit:

www.gulfcoast.edu/ge/deas

Gulf Coast State College is an equal access, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies, or procedures based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to the Executive Director of Human Resources / Title II / 504 / Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. U.S. Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850.872.3866.

DENTAL ASSISTING APPLICANTS

Minimum Placement Test Requirement Form

Per the Florida Department of Education, students must demonstrate a minimum 10th-grade competency level in Reading, Language, and Math to graduate from the Dental Assisting Program and receive a College Career certificate. Currently, the TABE placement test can be used to satisfy this requirement. If the student has already taken the TABE, PERT, CPT, ACT, or SAT, and the scores are current (within 2 years from program application date), the scores may be converted to a 10th-grade level by using the table below.

SCORES MUST BE RECEIVED BY PUBLISHED APPLICATION DEADLINE

Subject	CLT	PERT	ACT	SAT	College Course
Math/Algebra	≥ 16	≥ 114	≥ 19	≥ 480 or 24 (old)	Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix of MAC, MGF, or STA
English	≥ 38	≥ 103	≥ 17	≥ 490 in Critical Reading or 24 (old)	Completion of ENC 1101 with a grade "C" or better
Reading	≥ 38	≥ 106	≥ 19		

Students who are exempt from taking the college-entry level examinations are those who have earned college-level credit in English and Mathematics, **or** have earned CLT, PERT, ACT, or SAT scores that meet college-level requirements in English, Reading, and Mathematics, **or** who have completed successfully (C or higher) in the highest-level developmental course in English, Math, **or** Reading at a FLORIDA institution.

I _____ understand that minimum (current) passing scores on the placement test (CLT, PERT, ACT, SAT, college course equivalencies) are required to complete the Dental Assisting program. **Students are responsible for remediation and re-testing prior to graduation.**

Student's Signature

Date