



Dental Assisting Program



Chattanooga State



Dental Assisting Program

4501 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406

www.chattanoogaestate.edu

Mail completed application and observation forms to:

Chattanooga State Technical Community College
Marcia Sivley, Application Coordinator, Allied Health
4501 Amnicola Hwy. Chattanooga, TN 37406

E-mail: marcia.sivley@chattanoogastate.edu or call (423) 697-2504

Important Information

The Application Form, Pre-Clinical Observation Form, and information session dates are available at our Web site www.chattanoogastate.edu/Allied_Health/ahmain.asp.

You may also call the Division office at (423) 697-4450

For more information or to contact the Dental Assisting program director:

Karen Castleberry

phone: (423) 697-4474

e-mail: karen.castleberry@chattanoogastate.edu

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Scholarships are available through the Chattanooga State Foundation and through the American Dental Assistants Association.

For more information about financial aid and eligibility, contact the Financial Aid office at (423) 697-4402.

Dental Assisting Program

For more information regarding the Dental Assisting Program call

(423) 697-4450 or go online to

www.chattanoogastate.edu/

[allied_health/ahmain.asp](http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health/ahmain.asp).

General Information

Thank you for requesting information about the Dental Assisting Program at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. Enclosed is information describing the program curriculum and admission procedures. For an overview of a career in dental assisting, you may visit the Closed Circuit Viewing Room, IMC-206, second floor of the Library and ask for VT 5594, "Careers in Dental Assisting."

In support of non-discrimination policies, applicants to Health Programs are not required to provide evidence of Health History and Physical examination. Once accepted into the program, the student must provide required documentation of Health History and Physical examination signed by a physician indicating the student's ability to safely continue with the program of study. Students must acknowledge by signature their willingness to comply with all policies as outlined in the Nursing/Allied Health Handbook, available in the Division Office.

If you have any questions or if you need more information, please call (423) 697-4450 or visit www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health/ahmain.asp.

Please Note: Students must be aware that they may come in contact with blood borne pathogens (HIV, Hepatitis B) when working with patients.

Purpose

This three-semester program prepares students to become valuable members of the dental health team. The dental assistant may serve a dental practice or health center as an office manager/business assistant, chair side assistant, laboratory assistant or as the person responsible for dental education. The Dental Assisting curriculum provides a foundation in the health sciences along with extensive training in the technology necessary to perform tasks delegated by the State Dental Practice Act. Clinical training experience working with dentists and patients are provided in private offices of practicing dentists within the area.

Thirty-six students are accepted each fall. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon the candidate's completion of a physical exam which includes drug screening and a Hepatitis-B vaccination. Please note that costs relating to the physical exam, the purchase of uniforms, supplies, books, and liability insurance are the financial responsibility of the student. Students are also responsible for transportation to and from off-campus clinical educational facilities.

The Division of Nursing/Allied Health at Chattanooga State exists to prepare competent workers to meet the current and emerging needs of the workplace by:

1. Delivering high-quality educational programs and services that provide knowledge, skills, cultural awareness, and attitudes needed to experience prosperous and rewarding lives.
2. Contributing to the economic well-being of the regions served through workforce development and partnerships with business and industry.
3. Preparing graduates who will be employed in jobs related to their educational preparation.
4. Preparing competent workers to meet the needs of employers.

Location

Program is located at:

Chattanooga State Technical Community College
4501 Amnicola Hwy., Omniplex Building, Second Floor,
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another institution should request that the Records office evaluate their transcripts for transfer of credit. Equivalent General Education course credits from accredited institutions generally transfer. Additionally, students transferring from another ADA accredited dental assistant program may have additional course credits that will apply to the program at Chattanooga State. Requests will be considered on an individual basis.

Admissions Checklist

Utilize this checklist as a guide for completing your application requirements. All application materials must be postmarked by the first Monday in April for priority consideration.

Have you fulfilled the admissions requirements for Chattanooga State?

- Complete Chattanooga State Admission Application Form.
- Submit official high school/GED and college transcripts to the Admissions Office and request that the college transcript(s) be evaluated for transfer of credit.
- Take the ACT, SAT or COMPASS, if applicable.

Have you fulfilled the admission requirements for the Dental Assisting Program?

- Attend a dental assisting info session.
- Complete all recommended transitional studies classes prior to enrolling in the dental assisting program.(except DSPM0850, which may be taken concurrently with DAST classes.)
- Complete the Allied Health Admission Application Form (enclosed).
- Complete 16-hour Pre-Clinical Observation Form (enclosed).
- Participate in a personal interview with a program faculty member.

Americans With Disabilities

Students who have educational, psychological, and/or physical disabilities may be eligible for accommodations that provide equal access to educational programs and activities at Chattanooga State. These students should notify the instructor immediately, and ideally should contact Disabilities Support Services (S-113, phone 697-4452) within the first two weeks of the semester in order to discuss individual needs. The student must provide documentation of the disability so that reasonable accommodations can be requested in a timely manner. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in a class, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Program Costs, 2008-2009

These are estimated expenses for the program and are subject to change without notice.

Note: \$10.00 extra per each on-line credit hour

College fees are included in the maintenance cost.

Chattanooga State Current Fees: chattanoogaastate.edu/bursar/burfees.asp

First Semester (18 hours) (Fall)	In-state	Out-of-State
In-state maintenance fee	1,398.50	5,148.50
Physical Examination	300.00	300.00
Liability Insurance	15.00	15.00
CPR	40.00	40.00
Textbooks and Supply Cost	500.00	500.00
Uniforms	200.00	200.00
Second Semester (18 hours) (Spring)		
In-state maintenance fee	1,398.50	5,148.50
Textbooks	200.00	200.00
Third Semester (12 hours) (Summer)		
In-state maintenance fee	1,398.50	5,148.50
Textbooks	200.00	200.00
State Registration (application and background check)	<u>88.00</u>	<u>88.00</u>
Total	\$5,738.50	\$16,988.50

Program Content

Summary of Required Hours

All courses must be passed with a “C” or higher.

Course No.	Course Title	Semester Hours		
		FALL	SPR	SU
CS 101	Computer Literacy	3		
DAST1120, 1121	Basic Sciences I, II	3	2	
DAST1130, 1131	Clinical Skills I, II	4	3	
DAST1140	Dental Radiology	4		
DAST1150	Dental Materials	4		
DAST1160	Dental Office Management			3
DAST1170, 1171	Clinical Practice I, II		7	6
ENGL1010	Composition I		3	
PY 101	General Psychology			3
SP 110	Fundamentals of Public Speaking			3
		<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>

Total Hours: 48

Note: All DAST courses are Hybrid or On-line and require the use of a computer with an internet connection.

Accreditation

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association—a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary accreditation of the U.S. Department of Education.

Work Settings

- Private Practice—general, group, or specialty
- Health Departments
- Dental Supply House
- Manufacturer’s Representative
- Dental Insurance Claims
- Dental Office Receptionist/Manager

Application Procedures

In addition to meeting the admission application requirements for admission to Chattanooga State, a student seeking admission to the Dental Assisting program must also have completed high school or have a GED, and complete the following:

1. Attend a dental assisting info session. See Information Session Schedule insert for dates and times.
2. Take the appropriate entrance exam (ACT, SAT or COMPASS) to determine placement. All recommended transitional studies classes must be completed prior to enrolling in the dental assisting program, except DSPM0850, which may be taken concurrently with DAST classes.
3. Complete the Allied Health Admission Application Form (enclosed).
4. Complete 16-hour pre-clinical observation (form enclosed).
5. Participate in a personal academic planning session with a program faculty member.

Applicants who complete these steps will be offered admission into the next class in which space is available. One class of 36 students is admitted each fall semester.

Admission Procedures

Admission to the Dental Assisting Program is not a selective process. The first applicants to qualify are the first offered admission.

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will be offered admission if space is available, or will be placed on the waiting list for the next class to be admitted. However, there is usually no waiting.

Post-Selection Procedures

Students who are offered admission must submit the following before the first day of classes:

- Completed medical examination, immunization, and drug screen forms furnished to the student in the official acceptance packet.
- Proof of CPR Certification.
- Proof of student liability insurance

Note: Criminal background checks are neither a requirement for admission to Chattanooga State Technical Community College nor the Dental Assisting Program. Clinical affiliates and/or State Boards may require criminal background checks as a condition of clinical practice or state licensure. Students are advised that failure to successfully pass the criminal background check may result in the inability to become licensed as a dental assistant.

Licensure

A license to practice Dental Assisting is not required in all states, but in Tennessee the dental assistant must be registered (RDA). Registration is granted by the Board of Dentistry. Students who successfully complete this program are eligible to apply for State Registration and/or National Certification Examinations

Salary Range

Excellent opportunities for employment exist nationwide. The median salary for dental assistants in Tennessee is about \$33,000 per year, somewhat less for beginning dental assistants. (Source: DANB's "Show me the Money" Salary Survey www.danb.org)

Technical Standards

Because graduates of the dental auxiliary programs must be able to function safely and perform complex tasks in caring for their patients, the following standards have been established. All candidates must:

- have normal or corrected vision within the range of 20/20 to no less than 20/60 corrected and able to distinguish color shade changes.
- possess auditory abilities sufficient to follow directions and respond to questions.
- possess in both hands manual dexterity and the ability to perceive temperature changes, recognize an object by touching and handling, and differentiate between various textures of substances.
- possess communication abilities sufficient to interact with others in verbal and written form in English.
- possess four functional limbs which allow the following functions: grasp securely with each hand; walk without human assistance; and lift at least 20 pounds without assistance.