DENTAL ASSISTING

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS) – 63 CREDITS

About this program

The Dental Assisting program provides the knowledge necessary for the dental assistant to assist in performing general clinical assisting and support functions, intraoral clinical procedures, business office procedures and laboratory tasks. The curriculum includes content in general studies; biomedical, dental and clinical sciences; clinical practice; and additional intraoral clinical functions. Certain biomedical and dental science courses offered in the curriculum are common to both Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene majors. Graduates are eligible to write the Dental Assisting National Board Certification Exam and the Minnesota State Board of Dentistry Registration Exam.

Program outcomes

1. Apply current concepts of infection control and occupational safety.
2. Perform entry-level dental assisting skills.
3. Interact effectively with patients, peers and dental health teams.
4. Utilize current technology relevant to the dental profession.
5. Apply knowledge of basic sciences.
6. Apply principles of clinical assisting for expanded function procedures in dentistry.

Curriculum overview

Crds	Requirement type
63	Required courses
63	**Total**

Developmental courses note: A student may be required to enroll in developmental courses in reading, writing and math. A student's scores on the Accuplacer assessment will determine enrollment in developmental courses. The purpose of developmental courses is to prepare students for the demands of a college-level curriculum. *Credits may vary.*

Accreditation:

Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association

On April 27th and 28th, 2023 the M State Dental Assisting Program will be hosting representatives from the Commission on Dental Accreditation for an on campus site visit as part of the seven year cycle of accreditation. If you are interested in forwarding comments to the Commission regarding the M State Dental Assisting Program, please click on the link below to be directed to the appropriate form. Third party comments are due in the Commission's office no later than 60 days prior to the site visit, which would be February 26, 2023. Third Party Comments for CODA

The mailing address and other contact information:

American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Email: accreditation@ada.org

Allied Dental Education Manager: Jamie Asher Hernandez
Telephone: U.S. 1 -800-232-6108 x 4660

Last site visit: April, 2015. Our current accreditation status is: Approval (without reporting requirements): An accreditation classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation. This is considered the highest designation of accreditation.

Graduates of this program are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Certification Exam and the Minnesota State Board of Dentistry Registration Exam.

Curriculum requirement details

Required courses

Course	Crds
BIOL2202 - Principles of Nutrition	3
BIOL2260 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIOL2262 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIOL2267 - Medical Microbiology	3
CHEM1100 - Fundamental Concepts of Chemistry	3
DENT1100 - Biomaterials	3
DENT1102 - Dental Anatomy	2
DENT1103 - Introduction for Dental Health Care Providers	2
DENT1104 - Dental Health Care Providers II	1
DENT1106 - Dental Radiology Lecture	3
DENT1122 - Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence	1
DNAS1103 - Clinical Assisting I	6
DNAS1105 - Clinical Assisting II	5
DNAS1106 - Biodental Science	3
DNAS1114 - Dental Practice Management	2
DNAS1119 - Advanced Functions	5
DNAS1144 - Dental Assisting Clinical Affiliations	6
DNAS1210 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab I	1
DNAS1212 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab II	1
DNAS1215 - Dental Specialties	1
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3
PSYC1200 - General Psychology	3

Other requirements or restricted electives

Course summaries

BIOL2202 - Principles of Nutrition ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2 and 3. This course is a study of the fundamental principles of nutrition. This course will cover food composition, diet planning, utilization of food nutrients in the body and the requirements for nutrients in infancy, childhood, teen years, athletes, adults and the elderly. Also included are discussions about current trends in nutrition, the relationship of diet and disease, and cultural differences in dietary practices. Using the basic principles of nutrition, students will have a lab-like experience tracking, measuring, calculating and analyzing their diet and presenting the results in a written analytical report.

Prerequisites:

- CHEM1100

OR

- Instructor permission

OR

- CHEM1111

OR

- BIOL1122

OR

- BIOL2260

BIOL2260 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Area 3. This course is a comprehensive introductory overview of human anatomy and physiology that includes basic fundamental concepts of cell biology, tissues and organs making up the integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous systems. It is the first of a two-semester sequence in which anatomy and physiology are studied with an emphasis on structure and functions of systems. This course contains a lab-like component.

Prerequisites:

- Assessment into ENGL 1101 or college level writing equivalent.

BIOL2262 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Area 3. This course is a continuation of Anatomy and Physiology I. Topics will include the study of cells, tissues and organs making up the endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic and immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems. Emphasis is on the structure and function of included systems. This course contains a lab-like component.

Prerequisites:

- Assessment into ENGL 1101 or college level writing equivalent.
- BIOL2260

BIOL2267 - Medical Microbiology ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Area 3. This course is the study of the structure and the classification of bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi of medical importance. It emphasizes the transmission of disease agents, signs and symptoms, immunology, immunization, control of microbial growth, specimen collection/transport, methods of identification and antimicrobial resistance. This lecture course includes lab-like components.

Prerequisites:

- Assessment into ENGL 1101.

CHEM1100 - Fundamental Concepts of Chemistry ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2 and 3. Course deals with substances, their structures and properties, the changes they undergo and the laws that govern those changes. Intended for prospective elementary teachers, non-science majors and those who need background for General Chemistry. This course includes a lab.

Prerequisites:

- MATH0095 or placement by assessment

DENT1100 - Biomaterials ..... ***(3 credits)***
This is a foundation course that provides in-depth instruction and practice in identifying the materials and their purposes and properties as they are used during chairside and laboratory procedures. Material manipulation is a critical requirement of the lab component of this course. Laboratory safety measures and infection control are emphasized.

DENT1102 - Dental Anatomy ..... ***(2 credits)***
The lecture portion of the course introduces the student to basic terminology for understanding the structures that form the foundation for tooth function, normal anatomy of the oral cavity, and tooth and root morphology. Special topics include survey of dental anomalies and forensic dentistry.

DENT1103 - Introduction for Dental Health Care Providers ..... ***(2 credits)***
The student will be introduced to fundamental knowledge required in the practice of dentistry. Topics to be covered include blood-borne pathogens, concepts and procedures of infection control, medical emergencies, first aid in the dental setting and patient privacy rights.

DENT1104 - Dental Health Care Providers II ..... ***(1 credits)***
This course will build on student learning in Introduction to Healthcare Providers I. Students will be challenged to go beyond definitions and practices and understand the what, why and how of blood-borne pathogens, concepts, standards and procedures of infection control, medical emergencies, first aid in the dental setting and patient privacy rights.

DENT1106 - Dental Radiology Lecture ..... ***(3 credits)***
This course includes an overview of the history of x-ray development and a review of basic mathematics and radiation physics as they apply to x-ray production. Radiographic film and digital image quality are explored. Explanation of darkroom chemistry, radiation asepsis and safety are covered. Other topics include interpretation of normal anatomy, dental film and digital image analysis, radiographic interpretation and evaluation, and quality assurance issues.

DENT1122 - Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence ..... ***(1 credits)***
This course focuses on the ethical and legal implications of providing dental, dental assisting and dental hygiene care. The practice acts for Minnesota and North Dakota will also be studied.

DNAS1103 - Clinical Assisting I ..... ***(6 credits)***
This course includes an orientation to the history of dentistry, educational requirements, credentialing opportunities and professional associations for dental and allied dental careers. The student is provided with instruction in the use of dental equipment, instruments and supplies; principles of four-handed dentistry; concepts of infection control and instrument recirculation; management of medical and dental emergencies; and procedures related to oral diagnosis, preventive dentistry and restorative dentistry.

DNAS1105 - Clinical Assisting II ..... ***(5 credits)***
Dental assisting students apply skills in a clinical setting. This course prepares the student to adapt chairside skills to assist with dental specialties as they are performed in the general practice. Students will apply skills developed in Dental Anatomy, Biomaterials, Biodental Science and Dental Practice Management as they apply to the practice of dental assisting.

Prerequisites:

- DNAS1103

DNAS1106 - Biodental Science ..... ***(3 credits)***
This course provides an introduction to anatomy and physiology, an introduction to dental histology, embryology and an overview of head and neck anatomy using the universal charting system. This course also is designed to give the student a basic concept of microbiology and disease transmission and a survey of oral pathology and pharmacology. The student will be introduced to the basic concepts of nutrition in the dental profession.

DNAS1114 - Dental Practice Management ..... ***(2 credits)***
This course provides the student with instruction in the principles and applications that are related to the management of a dental office. Emphasis is placed on managing patient records through computer-generated charting, financial records, third-party payments, appointment scheduling, inventory and recall systems.

DNAS1119 - Advanced Functions ..... ***(5 credits)***
This course is designed to provide the student with instruction and practice to perform the clinical competency in the following intra-oral functions approved by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry: taking radiographic exposures, performing mechanical polishing, taking preliminary impressions and bite registrations, applying topical fluoride, placing and removing periodontal dressing, removing excess cement, monitoring nitrous oxide-induced patients, induction of nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation, removing excess bond from orthodontic appliances with rotary instruments and applying pit and fissure sealants. In addition the following intra-oral functions are taught and practiced to laboratory competency: removing sutures, preliminary adaptation of temporary (provisional) crowns, performing selected orthodontic functions, applying bleaching agents and performing approved endodontic procedures.

Prerequisites:

- DNAS1103

DNAS1144 - Dental Assisting Clinical Affiliations ..... ***(6 credits)***
This is a faculty-supervised course at extramural sites with dentists and dental auxiliaries providing ancillary supervision. The student will be provided with clinical experiences by affiliations in general dentistry and/or specialized practices. Emphasis is on professionalism in performing general chairside and advanced intraoral procedures.

Prerequisites:

- Acceptance into the dental assisting program.

DNAS1210 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab I ..... ***(1 credits)***
Dental Assisting students will be introduced to techniques and processes for exposing digital full mouth series and extra-oral digital radiographs on skulls, manikins and patients. Students will utilize these techniques and processes to expose digital radiographs and evaluate them for diagnostic value according to M State Dental Criteria for Radiographic Acceptability.

Corequisites:

- DENT1106

DNAS1212 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab II ..... ***(1 credits)***
Dental Assisting students will expose digital full mouth series and extra-oral digital radiographs on patients. Lab sessions will allow students to further develop radiographic skills and enhance proficiency in radiographic techniques and evaluation.

Prerequisites:

- DNAS1210

DNAS1215 - Dental Specialties ..... ***(1 credits)***
This course introduces the student to the dental specialties of pediatric dentistry, periodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, orthodontics and prosthodontics, both fixed and removable. This course will provide the student with an introduction to the clinical procedures with each of the specialties listed. Students will research various dental assisting specialties by interviewing dental assistants in specialty practices.

ENGL1101 - College Writing ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This is an introductory writing course designed to prepare students for later college and career writing. The course focuses on developing fluency through a process approach, with particular emphasis on revision. Students will consider purpose and audience, read and discuss writing and further develop their own writing processes through successive revisions to produce polished drafts. Course work will include an introduction to argumentative writing, writing from academic sources and a short research project.

Prerequisites:

- Completion of ELL1080, ENGL0096, or ENGL0097 with a grade of C or higher OR placement into college-level English.

PSYC1200 - General Psychology ..... ***(3 credits)***
Meets MnTC Goal Areas 5 and 9. This is a comprehensive introductory overview of psychology that studies human behavior and mental processes. Topics include (but are not limited to) research methods, the history of psychology, neuroscience and behavior, developmental psychology, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, health psychology, learning and memory, personality, social psychology, psychopathology and treatments, and states of consciousness such as sleep and dreams.

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Program Plan — "Primary"

Locations: Moorhead

1st Fall Term (17 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
DENT1100 - Biomaterials	3
DENT1104 - Dental Health Care Providers II	1
DENT1106 - Dental Radiology Lecture	3
DNAS1103 - Clinical Assisting I	6
DNAS1106 - Biodental Science	3
DNAS1210 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab I	1

1st Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
DENT1122 - Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence	1
DNAS1105 - Clinical Assisting II	5
DNAS1114 - Dental Practice Management	2
DNAS1119 - Advanced Functions	5
DNAS1212 - Dental Assisting Radiology Lab II	1
DNAS1215 - Dental Specialties	1

1st Summer Term (25 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
BIOL2202 - Principles of Nutrition	3
BIOL2260 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIOL2262 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIOL2267 - Medical Microbiology	3
CHEM1100 - Fundamental Concepts of Chemistry	3
DENT1102 - Dental Anatomy	2
DENT1103 - Introduction for Dental Health Care Providers	2
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3
PSYC1200 - General Psychology	3

2nd Summer Term (6 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
DNAS1144 - Dental Assisting Clinical Affiliations	6