



## 2022 DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM ADVISING GUIDE

PCC's Dental Assisting (DA) program admits 45 students each year. Completion of the prerequisites and program requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of program spaces, all eligible applicants are placed in a lottery and selected at random. **Applicants are eligible for the lottery if they have met all program requirements by the end of Spring term, 2022.** In progress applications will be considered if there are available seats once all complete applicants have been placed (see page 4).

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm**

### Admission Requirements

- Completion of the following prerequisites by the end of the winter term prior to application deadline. All courses must be completed with a C grade or higher:
  - WR 115 **or** equivalent placement score\*
  - MP 111 Medical Terminology **from PCC only** (Visit [www.pcc.edu/da](http://www.pcc.edu/da) under Program Admission for more information)
  - One College course that is at least 2 credits
- Completion of 12 hours of shadowing in a dentist's office or dental clinic documented on the Dental Assisting Shadowing Form included in the application packet. 3 hours may be completed at the PCC Dental Clinic based on availability. Call 971-722-4909 to schedule.  
  
Please see **COVID Alternative to Shadowing option** at [pcc.edu/da](http://pcc.edu/da). It is listed as checklist item #4 for and will ONLY be available to students applying in 2021 and 2022.
- **CHOOSE ONE:** 1) high school diploma or college transcript with GPA of 2.0 or higher 2) GED

\*PCC accepts multiple measures including PCC equivalent placement scores for COMPASS or ASSET placement tests. Documentation from other institutions must include raw scores and are evaluated using PCC cut scores. For additional placement options, please visit the PCC Testing Center website at [www.pcc.edu/testing](http://www.pcc.edu/testing)

All students, especially those with transfer courses, are encouraged to meet with a health admissions advisor. Call 971-722-4795 to schedule an appointment. Transfer course equivalency is subject to review by PCC Student Records Office, Dental Sciences Department & Health Admissions Office.

### Application Process

- Apply to Portland Community College online at [www.pcc.edu/admissions](http://www.pcc.edu/admissions). You must have a PCC student ID number to apply to the Dental Assisting Program.
- Complete the Dental Assisting program application.
- Include required documentation of 12 hours shadowing in a dental office or dental clinic (see page 2).
- Include required response to the essay question (see application instructions).
- Include official transcripts (other than PCC) showing completion of required prerequisite courses and official documentation of placement scores (if applicable). These documents must be submitted with your application NOT mailed separately.

### Application Timeline

- **Mid-December, 2021:** Program applications are available online at [www.pcc.edu/DA](http://www.pcc.edu/DA).
- **January 2, 2022** Health Admissions Office begins accepting applications.
- **July 1, 2022 at 9 pm PT:** APPLICATION DEADLINE.
- **Mid-July, 2022:** Applicants are informed of their admissions status through their PCC email only.
- **Late July, 2022:** Mandatory Orientation and Health Provider CPR certification, Criminal Background check, Drug screening and [Immunizations](#) (including the COVID-19 vaccination). Acceptance into the program is contingent on passing/clearing all of these requirements
- **Late August 2022:** Second Orientation
- **September 26, 2022** Program begins



## 2022 Dental Assisting Prerequisite Completion Worksheet

Math and writing competencies can be met with ALEKS, COMPASS or ASSET placement tests. For additional placement options and testing information please visit: [www.pcc.edu/testing](http://www.pcc.edu/testing). If placement tests are completed at an institution other than PCC, documentation of the raw test scores must be included with the admissions application.

Prerequisite	Course number or Placement test name (for math and writing only)	Completion Term/Year	Grade or Test Score	Institution
WR 115 <u>or</u> placement into WR 121		/		
MP 111 Medical Terminology <u>or</u> Competency Test		/		
CHOOSE ONE (2 credit minimum)  College Success Course OR College Course		/		

I have completed 12 hours of shadowing a dentist's office or dental clinic documented on the Dental Care Experience Form located in the application packet.

Educational Planning for Prerequisites							
Term _____		Term _____		Term _____		Term _____	
Course	Cr.	Course	Cr.	Course	Cr.	Course	Cr.



## Dental Assisting Technical Standards

**You must meet these standards to successfully complete the program. Please read each carefully:**

- Hear under normal circumstances with or without hearing device
- Communicate both verbally and in writing in an effective manner to explain procedures and give instructions
- Ability to work independently and manage a variety of tasks in a short amount of time
- Eyesight capable of viewing small visual images with or without glasses & distinguish between black, white & subtle shades of gray
- Understand and react quickly to verbal instruction
- Demonstrate finger dexterity and eye/hand coordination to perform large and small motor coordination in a patient's mouth
- Stand in place for long periods of time
- Not prone to psoriasis, dermatitis, and other chronic skin disorders with open lesions or allergic responses to dental materials and agents
- Lift up to ten pounds
- Operate dental radiology equipment, which can require pushing, pulling or moving
- Handle stressful situations related to technical and procedural standards of patient care situations
- Provide physical and emotional support to the patient during dental procedures
- Follow directions effectively and work closely with members of the dental team
- Perform skills (such as CPR) related to emergency procedures in a dental office
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal relation skills
- Stoop and retrieve dental supplies
- Sit for prolonged periods of time on the dental stool and occupy a small space opposite the dentist in the operatory (approximately 3'x3')
- Reach overhead radiographic equipment and dental operating light (approximately 5' above the floor)
- Possess tactile senses for examining teeth and oral tissue



## DENTAL ASSISTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Can I apply to the Dental Assisting program if I'm not complete with prerequisites by the end of the Spring term?**

Once all applicants that are complete with prerequisites are placed, if there are available seats, in progress applications will be considered contingent on completion of all prerequisites by Summer term.

### **Can I work while I'm in PCC's Dental Assisting Program?**

The Dental Assisting program is a full time, Monday through Friday program and also includes homework and projects outside of class time which makes it difficult to work evenings and weekends and still complete all program requirements.

### **What if I've already taken a Medical Terminology course at an institution other than PCC?**

If you have already completed a Medical Terminology course at another institution, you have the option of taking the MP 111 Competency Test. A passing score is eligible to substitute for taking PCC's Medical Terminology course. Please contact the Health Admissions Office for further information.

### **Where will my clinical training take place?**

PCC Dental Assisting students will be training in the PCC Dental Clinic and also rotating to off-campus private dental clinics. In all clinical sites training occurs with live patients. Reliable transportation to off-campus clinics is necessary.

### **Do I need a social security number to be a Dental Assistant?**

Neither PCC nor the licensing organization (DANB) require students to have a social security number. However, employers may require one for hiring purposes.

### **If I have a criminal record, does it disqualify me?**

Please refer to the following website for a list of disqualifying crimes:

[www.oregon.gov/chc/docs/crimelist.xls](http://www.oregon.gov/chc/docs/crimelist.xls)

### **If I have a current CPR card, does it meet the CPR course requirement?**

Accepted DA students must present a copy of a current Healthcare Provider CPR card that shows that the class included adult, infant, child CPR and use of the Automated Defibrillator (AED). Otherwise, you're required to take another class.

### **Can I transfer to a four year institution?**

Students are encouraged to speak with an advisor at the institution they plan to transfer to, as they will have the final decision in determining which of the PCC credits are transferable and accepted.

## **Additional Resources**

American Dental Association: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

Oregon Board of Dentistry: [www.oregon.gov/dentistry](http://www.oregon.gov/dentistry)

Dental Assisting National Board: [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)

Portland Community College  
Health Admissions Office  
Sylvania Campus, CC 209  
Phone: 971-722-4795, FAX: 971-722-4837  
[www.pcc.edu/da](http://www.pcc.edu/da)  
[syhao@pcc.edu](mailto:syhao@pcc.edu)