

# **School of Health Sciences Dental Assisting Program**

**Ivy Tech Community College  
Anderson Campus**

815 E 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anderson IN 46013

[www.ivytech.edu](http://www.ivytech.edu)

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## **2027 Program Overview**

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**Ivy Tech Community College  
Dental Assisting Program Information**

Dental assisting is a limited enrollment program, which means only a limited number of students are accepted each year. The Anderson Dental Assisting Program accepts up to 24 students to begin the fall semester. The program is 3 semesters, fall, spring, and summer. There are four prerequisite courses that must be completed prior to entering the program. Students accepted into the program will be required to participate in some evening laboratory sessions. Students are in class, labs, or clinics, Monday through Friday anywhere from 16 to 24 hours per week, depending upon the semester. The program is considered full-time due to the number of credit hours each semester.

Graduates are awarded either a Technical Certificate or an Associate of Applied Science Degree. The Associate of Science Degree requires an additional six general education courses in addition to the course requirements for a technical certificate.

Please review the information packet carefully as it outlines the application process for the fall 2026 dental assisting program. This information includes prerequisite courses as well as deadline dates for applying to the program online.

Applications for the dental assisting program will be completed online for the fall 2026 class. The application process will open on March 15, 2026, and close May 15, 2026. It is important you monitor the website closely for updated information regarding the online application.

See the program webpage for additional information coming soon.

Once again, please read the information thoroughly as it will answer most of the common questions. If you have a question that is not covered in the packet, please contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

Kim Bell, BS, RDH, CDA  
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### **NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

Ivy Tech Community College provides open admission, degree credit programs, courses and community service offerings, and student support services for all protected classes – race, religion, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, physical and mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran or military status. The College also provides opportunities to students on the same non-discriminatory opportunity basis. Persons who believe they may have been discriminated against should contact the campus affirmative action officer, Human Resources Administrator, or Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana is an accredited, equal opportunity/ affirmative action institution. For more information review the Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures at [https://my.ivytech.edu/policy?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sys\\_kb\\_id=9854ca08fba2e2509ef3fc907befdc8](https://my.ivytech.edu/policy?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=9854ca08fba2e2509ef3fc907befdc8)

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### **BOOKLET DISCLAIMER**

This Dental Assisting 2026-2027 handbook is intended to supply accurate information to the reader. The imbedded links take the reader directly to the Ivy Tech policy for further clarification. The College reserves the right to change the program and course requirements; however, every effort will be made to inform students of any program changes. This handbook and its provisions are not in any way a contract.

### **Bloodborne Pathogen Policy**

Healthcare personnel are at risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, including hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Exposures occur through needle sticks or cuts from other sharp instruments contaminated with an infected patient's blood or through contact of the eye, nose, mouth, or skin with a patient's blood. Important factors that influence the overall risk for occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens include the number of infected individuals in the patient population and the type and number of blood contacts. Dental assisting students are required to have up-to-date immunizations and an annual TB test. All dental assisting and dental hygiene faculty are strongly encouraged to have up-to-date immunizations and an annual TB test. All dental hygiene faculty, dental assisting faculty and students are required to use proper infection control measures, including the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) when working in the dental hygiene clinic.

### **Policy Regarding Faculty, Staff or Students Who Have Infectious Disease**

It is the policy of the dental assisting program that any student enrolled in the program, faculty teaching in the program, or student applying to the program who poses a risk of transmitting an infectious agent should consult with the appropriate health care professionals to determine whether providing professional services would represent any material risk to the patient. If such a risk is possible, the faculty or student will not be allowed to engage in any professional activity that would create a risk of transmission of disease to others.

All procedures regarding this policy will ensure confidentiality of information in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.

# **BLOODBORNE AND AIRBORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE PROTOCOL**



## **Standard Precautions**

According to the Universal Precautions Rule 410 IAC 1-4-7.1: "Covered individuals, including health care workers, whose professional, employment, training, or volunteer activities or duties are performed at or on behalf of a facility, must complete the training programs which the facility is required to have employees attend under the Indiana occupational safety and health administration's blood borne pathogens standards (as found in 29 CFR 1910.1030). Approved programs under this rule shall be as follows: (A) A blood borne pathogen training session provided by a facility or employer under the Indiana occupational safety and health administration's blood borne pathogens standards (as found in 29 CFR 1910.1030)." This training must include instruction in the "Universal Precautions" procedures adopted by the Indiana State Department of Health. Because students in the Dental Assisting Program may have direct contact with blood or other body fluids, the Program is required to provide annual training in Universal Precautions to comply with agency affiliation agreements.

Caring for patients with communicable diseases and opportunistic parasites increases the possibility of student susceptibility for acquiring these infections/infestations. All students who are enrolled in clinical or laboratory courses accept responsibility for consistent and correct use of Universal Standard Precautions at all times.

## **Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens Exposure Protocol**

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Exposures may occur through needle sticks or cuts from other sharp instruments contaminated with an infected patient's blood or through contact of the eye, nose, mouth, or skin with a patient's blood. Students are encouraged to reference the ASOM policy related to Bloodborne pathogen safe handling. Any student who may have experienced an exposure to bloodborne or airborne pathogens should notify their instructor. Consult the Bloodborne Pathogens policy for additional information: Policy Management - ASOM 04.15.01 - Bloodborne Pathogens

## **What Are Airborne Pathogens?**

Airborne Pathogens are infectious microorganisms which can be transmitted through air and could cause disease. The discharged microbes may remain suspended in the air on dust particles, respiratory and water droplets.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is an airborne pathogen of concern. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

## **What to Do When an Airborne Pathogens Exposure Occurs:**

If you think you have been exposed to an airborne pathogen (i.e. tuberculosis) without appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), you should immediately contact your Ivy Tech instructor and clinical supervisor and seek testing at an urgent care clinic, emergency room, or physician office. Be prepared to tell the doctor or nurse when you were exposed to the airborne pathogen, what type of exposure you think occurred (contaminated air with or without respiratory tract droplets, mucus, or blood), and if the source patient of the contamination is being tested for airborne pathogens.

## **INTRODUCTION**

**This packet introduces you to the application process for the Dental Assisting Program at Ivy Tech Community College**

## **ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Regional Accreditation Statement**

Ivy Tech Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Higher Learning Commission

230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500; Chicago, IL 60604-1413

(800) 621-7440 or (312) 263-7462 Fax: (312) 263-0456

<http://www.ncahlc.org>

### **Program Accreditation**

Commission on Dental Accreditation

211 East Chicago Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60611

312/440-4653

[www.ada.org/coda](http://www.ada.org/coda)

Link to dental assisting accreditation standards:

[https://coda.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/coda/files/dental\\_assisting\\_standards.pdf?rev=a65d5ba2c45d47e290888670759994e4&hash=8D27A26C81C8B48FEC7980CD29DE120D](https://coda.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/coda/files/dental_assisting_standards.pdf?rev=a65d5ba2c45d47e290888670759994e4&hash=8D27A26C81C8B48FEC7980CD29DE120D)

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the dental assisting programs is to provide education leading to either a technical certificate or an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Assisting degree. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply to take the Dental Assisting National Board examination and any regional or state clinical licensing exam which is required to obtain state licensure as a Certified or Licensed Dental Assistant.

### **Dental Assisting Program Mission Statement**

The goal of the dental assisting program at Ivy Tech Community College is to advance the mission of the college by providing a quality educational program that will graduate competent oral health professionals who through critical thinking, ethical decision making and lifelong learning will meet the dental needs of the diverse communities we serve.

## **Future Dental Assistants?**

### **What is a dental assistant?**

A dental assistant is a vital member of the dental care team who supports dentists and dental hygienists in delivering safe, efficient, and quality oral health care. They perform a combination of clinical, technical, and administrative duties to ensure smooth operations in a dental office.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Preparing treatment rooms, instruments, and materials for dental procedures.
- Assisting the dentist chairside during examinations and treatments.
- Sterilizing and maintaining dental equipment and tools to meet infection-control standards.
- Exposing and developing dental x-rays.
- Taking dental impressions or intraoral scans.
- Educating patients on oral hygiene, post-treatment care, and preventive practices.
- Managing patient records, scheduling appointments, and handling billing or insurance paperwork.
- Ensuring patient comfort and providing reassurance before, during, and after procedures.
- In some states, dental assistants....
  - Administer nitrous oxide.
  - Place filling materials, temporary fillings and periodontal dressings.
  - Remove sutures.
  - Polish dentition and apply fluoride.
  - Polish restorations.

Dental assistants provide clinical services in a variety of settings such as private dental practice, specialty dental practices, community health settings, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, schools, faculty practice clinics, state and federal government facilities, dental laboratories and Indian reservations. In addition to clinical practice, there are career opportunities in education, research, sales and marketing, public health, administration and government. Some assistants combine positions in different settings and career paths for professional variety. Working in education and clinical practice is an example. Flexible work hours can be a feature of this profession, with some assistants working full-time, others part-time.

## Admission Process

Twenty-four (24) students will be accepted annually into the dental assisting program. The program will begin in the fall semester of each year. Applicants will be selected for the program based upon a points system described in this packet.

**The application process is completed online. The application cycle will open March 15, 2027, and close May 15, 2027. It is important that you check the dental assisting webpage on a regular basis for updated information.**

**Applicants must complete all the following requirements to be considered for admission into the dental assisting program. Incomplete applications will not be considered for selection.**

- I. **General College Admission Requirements:** Achieve admission into the College by meeting Ivy Tech Community College admission requirements. Apply online at <http://www.ivytech.edu/apply-now/>  
**NOTE:** Admission to Ivy Tech does not guarantee admission to the dental assisting program. Applicants must complete requirements for general admission to the college including the completion of all required academic skills classes.

Submit official transcript(s) from **all** colleges / universities (other than Ivy Tech) you have attended to the Transcript Processing Center. Please see the address below. This will allow the you to be awarded transfer credit for courses completed that are equivalent. Applicants who received college credit for any of the required pre-req courses by completing high school AP courses or dual credit courses must also submit official high school transcripts to be evaluated. All official college transcripts can be sent electronically to [transcripts@ivytech.edu](mailto:transcripts@ivytech.edu) or mailed to:

Ivy Tech Community College  
Attn: Transcript Processing Center  
9301 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Transcripts must be received by the college no later than four weeks prior to the application deadline to ensure transfer credit is awarded prior to the online application deadline. Transcripts received after that time will not be reviewed by the time the online application closes and therefore, you will not be eligible to apply to the program that year.

## II. Application process to the dental assisting program:

- A. Complete the online application process. The online application will open March 15, 2027 and close May 15, 2027. Once the application cycle closes, no further applications will be accepted.
  - B. Applicants must be in good academic standing in the college to be considered for admission (i.e. minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA).
- The required pre-requisite courses are listed below. Per ASOM 1.6 - General education courses and prerequisites into a program cannot expire. **With the exception of IVYT 1XX, all general education pre-requisite courses must be completed by the end of spring semester 2026 to be considered for admission for the 2026 fall dental assisting class.** For fall admission, courses must be completed by the end of the previous spring semester to

count in the point system\* Grades must be in the system by midnight of Tuesday following the end of semester.

|          |                                 |      |
|----------|---------------------------------|------|
| ENGL 111 | English Composition             | 3 cr |
| HLHS 101 | Medical Terminology             | 3 cr |
| COMM 101 | Fundamentals of Public Speaking | 3 cr |
|          | or                              |      |
| COMM 102 | Interpersonal Communication     | 3 cr |

- C. Multiple Attempt Policy (ASOM 3.2) – Multiple Attempt Policy (ASOM 3.2) – Repeating Courses – Students may repeat a course one time. In cases of extenuating circumstances, students may attempt a course for a third time only with the approval of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or designee. Request for fourth or greater attempts must be approved by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. A withdrawal counts as an attempt.

### III. Candidate Selection Process:

- A. Grades from the following pre-requisite courses will be used in the admission process:

|          |                                 |      |
|----------|---------------------------------|------|
| ENGL 111 | English Composition             | 3 cr |
| HLHS 101 | Medical Terminology             | 3 cr |
| COMM 101 | Fundamentals of Public Speaking | 3 cr |
|          | or                              |      |
| COMM 102 | Interpersonal Communication     | 3 cr |

- B. Points will be assigned for grades earned in the above three (3) classes:

| Point Scale | SCIENCE* | NON-SCIENCE** |
|-------------|----------|---------------|
| A           | 30       | 15            |
| B           | 20       | 10            |
| C           | 10       | 5             |
| D           | 0        | 0             |
| F           | 0        | 0             |

Science Classes-APHY, CHEM, BIOL, MATH, SCIN, HLHS, PARM

Non-Science Classes-ENGL, PSYC, CMM, IVYT

CLEP/DANTES/VERIFIED CREDIT = B (Non-Science)

S/T/Pass = Letter grade of C per category

- C. Rank order of applicants: Applicants will be rank ordered (highest to lowest) by summing the following scores:
1. Points allotted to the grades of the completed required general education prerequisite courses.

2. The twenty-four applicants having the highest scores are selected for admission to the program.
3. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be applied **ONLY** to the candidates who are tied for a given position:
  - a. Student cumulative GPA.
4. It is the applicants' responsibility to make sure everything is submitted through the online portal by the deadline.
5. Applicants will be notified of acceptance status based on selection rounds dates available on the website. All acceptance information will be sent via the applicant's Ivy Tech email address. It is important that applicants check their Ivy Tech email on a regular basis for notifications.

#### **IV. Reapplication Process**

- A. Applicants who are not selected for the program may reapply for the next class.
- B. The entire application process must be completed during the time the online application cycle is open for the fall 2027 class. Requirements, including required pre-req classes, may change from year to year.
- C. Applicants who are not selected for the class are encouraged to meet with the program/department chair prior to re-applying for admission.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Implementation of Background Checks and Drug Screening Policy for Admission and Continued Enrollment for students who treat patients in the dental hygiene clinic:

1. **Enrollment in clinical courses and clinical co-requisite courses is contingent upon completion of a criminal background check and drug screening that meets the standards set forth by the College.** The process for completing the criminal background check and drug screening will be provided to candidates selected for admission. Completion of this process **IS NOT** required in order to apply to the dental assisting program and **is only** required for those individuals offered admission into the program.
  - a. The Ivy Tech Community College School of Health Sciences requires Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screenings for all School of Health students who will participate in clinical education.
  - b. All students accepted into the dental hygiene and dental assisting programs will be required to complete a Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening, provided by an outside vendor selected by the college and at the student's expense by the date specified in the letter of acceptance. Completion of the background check and drug screening is required for a student to enroll in any clinical course or co-requisite course.
  - c. The results of the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening will be made available to the student and the school. Upon completion, the dental hygiene and/or dental assisting program/department chairs will review the results. Results are maintained on the vendor's secure on-line site. If positive findings are reported, the department chair will review the results with the Dean of the School of Health Sciences and if necessary, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.
  - d. If the Program/Department Chair, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs determine that the results do not meet the standards set forth by the College, the student will not be allowed to enroll in any clinical courses or co-requisite courses. In most cases, this will mean that the student will not be able to progress in the program and will therefore not be able to complete the courses required for graduation.
  - e. The background check and drug screening will be conducted at least once per calendar year during the time the student is enrolled in the program. The same procedure outlined previously will be followed. If the findings do not meet the standard set forth by the College, the student will be unable to complete the clinical education component of the program, and therefore will not graduate from the dental hygiene or dental assisting program.
  - f. A clinical facility may request a copy of the background check records. The facility may also require a student to complete an additional background check per any addendum to the clinical contract agreed upon by the school and the clinical facility. Failure of the student to participate or allow disclosure in such a case will be counted as an unsuccessful attempt at placement.
  - g. The criminal background check and drug screening will be conducted once per calendar year, at a minimum. The college, dental assisting program, and clinical agencies reserve the right to request more frequent testing, in accordance with college policy.
2. Past criminal convictions can negatively impact your eligibility to obtain a state license. For specific information regarding your situation, please contact the State Board of Dentistry in the state you plan to apply for licensure.
3. Additional information regarding the college's background check and drug testing policy can be found in the Ivy Tech Community College Academic Support and Operations Manual. Policy 4.14

## Licensing Information

### U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act

The Indiana Professional Licensing Agency monitors and issues all professional licenses in the State of Indiana, including dental assisting. Applicants applying for a dental radiography license must meet residency requirements in order to obtain that license. The information below states the residency requirements that must be met in order to apply for a dental assistant radiography license in the State of Indiana.

The Indiana Public Licensing Agency (IPLA) has recently taken a position that may preclude visa holding or otherwise undocumented students from sitting for certification/licensure within Indiana or applying for a professional license. Students should seek their own legal counsel in these matters.

The expectations U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act are found in the Federal Regulation 8 of the U.S.C.; Section 1641:

#### **Federal Regulation: 8 U.S.C. Section 1641: The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act 2018**

##### **Amendment**

##### **(A) IN GENERAL**

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the terms used in this chapter have the same meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101(a)]. **(b) Qualified alien:**

For purposes of this chapter, the term “[qualified alien](#)” means an alien who, at the time the alien applies for, receives, or attempts to receive a [Federal public benefit](#), is—

- (1) an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act [[8 U.S.C. 1101](#) et seq.],
- (2) an alien who is granted asylum under section 208 of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1158](#)],
- (3) a refugee who is admitted to the United [States](#) under section 207 of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1157](#)],
- (4) an alien who is paroled into the United [States](#) under section 212(d)(5) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1182\(d\)\(5\)](#)] for a period of at least 1 year,
- (5) an alien whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1253](#)] (as in effect immediately before the effective date of section 307 of division C of [Public Law 104–208](#)) or section 241(b)(3) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1231\(b\)\(3\)](#)] (as amended by section 305(a) of division C of [Public Law 104–208](#)),
- (6) an alien who is granted conditional entry pursuant to section 203(a)(7) of such Act [[8 U.S.C. 1153\(a\)\(7\)](#)] as in effect prior to April 1, 1980; [[11](#)] or
- (7) an alien who is a Cuban and Haitian entrant (as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980).

## Dental Assisting Curriculum

### General Education Pre-requisite Courses 9 Credit Hours

|                         |                                                                |   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| COMM 101 or<br>COMM 102 | Introduction to Public Speaking<br>Interpersonal Communication | 3 |
| ENGL 111                | English Composition                                            | 3 |
| HLHS 101                | Medical Terminology                                            | 3 |

### Semester 1: (Fall) 12 Credit Hours

| Course Number | Course Title               | Credit Hours |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| DENT 115      | Preclinical Practice I     | 4            |
| DENT 116      | Pharmacology & Emergencies | 2            |
| DENT 123      | Dental Anatomy             | 3            |
| DENT 102      | Dental Materials I         | 3            |

### Semester 2: (Spring) 16 Credit Hours

| Course Number | Course Title                          | Credit Hours |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| DENT 125      | Preclinical Practice II               | 4            |
| DENT 118      | Radiology                             | 4            |
| DENT 129      | Dental Materials II                   | 3            |
| DENT 124      | Preventive & Nutrition                | 1            |
| DENT 122      | Clinical Externship I                 | 1            |
| DENT 117      | Dental Practice Management            | 2            |
| DENT 128      | Coronal Polishing & Caries Prevention | 1            |

**Summer Term: 8 Credit Hours**

|          |                                                  |   |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| DENT 130 | Clinical Externship                              | 5 |
| DENT 132 | Expanded Functions( <b>not required for TC</b> ) | 3 |

## Other Institutional Requirements

|            |                               |               |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| IVYT 112** | Student Success in Healthcare | 1 credit hour |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|

**Technical Certificate** **43 Credit Hours**

### AAS Additional Coursework

| Course Number | Course Title                     | Credit Hours |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| APHY 101      | Anatomy and Physiology I         | 3            |
| APHY 102      | Anatomy and Physiology II        | 3            |
| DENT 171      | Dental Terminology               | 3            |
| MATH 123      | Quantitative Reasoning or Higher | 3            |
| PSYC 101      | Introduction to Psychology       | 3            |
| SOCI 111      | Introduction to Sociology        | 3            |

**Total Credit Hours** **64 credit hours**

**\*\*May be taken prior to entering the dental assisting program or while enrolled in the dental assisting program.**

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF DENTAL ASSISTING STUDENTS

Qualified applicants are expected to meet all admission criteria and matriculating students are expected to meet all progression criteria, as well as these essential functions. **Students with documented need for accommodations are to meet with the campus Disabilities Support Services Representative.**

| Function                                     | Program-Specific Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GROSS MOTOR SKILLS                           | Move within confined spaces of operatory<br>Sit and maintain balance<br>Stand and maintain balance<br>Perform full range of body motion                                                                                                                                                              |
| FINE MOTOR SKILLS                            | Pick up objects with hands<br>Grasp small objects with hands (e.g. instruments)<br>Write with pen or pencil<br>Key/type (e.g. computer)<br>Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g. transfer, retrieve, instruments, materials, and equipment)<br>Twist (e.g. turn objects/knobs using hands) |
| PHYSICAL ENDURANCE                           | Stand, sit or combination of both for long periods of time (e.g. operative procedures)<br>Sustain repetitive movements (e.g. CPR)<br>Maintain physical tolerance (e.g. work entire day)                                                                                                              |
| PHYSICAL STRENGTH                            | Lift at least 20 pounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| MOBILITY                                     | Twist<br>Bend<br>Reach<br>Stoop/squat<br>Pull/push<br>Move quickly (e.g. response to emergency)<br>Climb (e.g. ladders/stools/stairs)<br>Walk                                                                                                                                                        |
| HEARING                                      | Hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g. person-to-person report)<br>Hear faint voices<br>Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g. when mask is used)                                                                                                                                       |
| VISUAL                                       | See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g. information on a computer screen)<br>See objects up to 20 feet away (e.g. patient in room)<br>Use depth perception<br>Use peripheral vision<br>Identify color changes in skin<br>Distinguish color intensity (e.g. flushed skin, paleness)                    |
| SMELL                                        | Detect odors from patients (e.g. foul-smelling oral cavity)<br>Detect smoke<br>Detect gases or noxious smells                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| EMOTIONAL STABILITY AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS | Adapt effectively to environments with high tension to ensure patient safety                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Function             | Program-Specific Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | <p>Respond quickly and in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations</p> <p>Negotiate interpersonal conflict</p> <p>Respect differences in patients</p> <p>Establish rapport with patients</p> <p>Establish rapport with co-workers</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| COMMUNICATION SKILLS | <p>Ability to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the health care team (including spoken and nonverbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language).</p> <p>Required communication abilities, including speech, hearing, reading, writing, language skills and computer literacy.</p> <p>Communicate professionally and civilly to the healthcare team including peers, instructors, and preceptors.</p> <p>Representative Activity/Attribute:</p> <p>Gives verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team and participates in health care team discussions of patient care.</p> <p>Elicits and accurately record, using correct spelling and professional terminology, information about health history, current health state and responses to treatment from patients or family members.</p> <p>Conveys information to patients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner.</p> <p>Establishes and maintain effective working relations with patients and co-workers.</p> <p>Recognizes and reports critical patient information to other caregivers.</p> <p>Teaches (e.g., patient/family about health care), explains procedures, gives oral reports (e.g., reports on patient's condition to others), interacts with others (e.g., health care workers), speaks on the telephone, influences people, and directs activities of others.</p> <p>Conveys information through writing (e.g., documentation)</p> |
| ANALYTICAL THINKING  | <p>Transfer knowledge from one situation to another</p> <p>Process information</p> <p>Problem solve</p> <p>Prioritize tasks</p> <p>Use long term memory</p> <p>Use short term memory</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| CRITICAL THINKING    | <p>Identify cause-effect relationships</p> <p>Plan/control activities for others</p> <p>Synthesize knowledge and skills</p> <p>Sequence information</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Ivy Tech Community College  
School of Health Sciences  
Dental Assisting Program  
Estimated Cost  
Class of 2026**

**August prior to beginning the dental assisting program:**

|                                                                       |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Background check, drug testing & compliance tracker                   | \$ 122.81       |
| Physical exam and immunizations/titers (variable, based on provider)+ |                 |
| <u>CPR Certification</u>                                              | <u>\$ 70.00</u> |
| Total                                                                 | \$ 192.81       |

**Fall Semester:**

|                                            |                         |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuition                                    | 12 or more credit hours | \$2577.11       |
| Textbooks                                  |                         | \$ 198.00       |
| Certification Exam Fee ICE*                |                         | \$ 270.00       |
| Consumable/Lab Fees                        |                         | \$ 80.00        |
| Uniforms                                   |                         | \$ 200.00       |
| Shoes, safety glasses and related supplies |                         | \$ 80.00        |
| <u>Printing</u>                            |                         | <u>\$ 25.00</u> |
| Fall Semester Total                        |                         | \$3430.11       |

**Spring Semester:**

|                             |                         |                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuition                     | 12 or more credit hours | \$2577.11       |
| Textbooks                   |                         | \$ 198.00       |
| Certification Exam Fee RHS* |                         | \$ 270.00       |
| Consumable/Lab Fees         |                         | \$ 140.00       |
| <u>Printing</u>             |                         | <u>\$ 25.00</u> |
| Spring Semester Total       |                         | \$3145.11       |

**Summer Term:**

|                             |                               |                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuition                     | In state \$178.38/credit hour | \$1427.04      |
| Certification Exam Fee GCE* |                               | \$ 270.00      |
| Textbook fee                |                               | \$ 99.00       |
| Consumable Fee              |                               | \$ 610.00      |
| <u>Printing</u>             |                               | <u>\$ 5.00</u> |
| Summer Term Total           |                               | \$2411.04      |

**Program Total: \$9294.07\*\*\***

**This is an estimate of the cost of the dental assisting program by semester.**

**Tuition is based upon in-state tuition rates. Tuition for out of state students is higher.**

**The cost is subject to change without notice.**

**+Varies depending upon provider and individual needs.**

**\*The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam is part of the students overall educational accomplishment. The exam is divided into 3 individual exams, infection control (ICE), radiation health and safety (RHS) and general chairside (GCE). The exams are divided up, one each semester, and the cost of the exam is part of the student's tuition.**

**\*\*\*Total Fees do not include physical exam nor immunization/titers fees due to individual variability.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**1. Is the dental assisting program at Ivy Tech accredited?**

Yes, the dental assisting program at Ivy Tech is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Graduates are eligible to take all licensing and certification exams and apply for a state license upon graduation from the program.

**2. Is the dental assisting program offered online?**

Many of the required pre-req classes can be completed in a face-to-face or on-line format. The dental assisting program is only offered in a face-to-face format. Individuals selected for the program must attend all dental assisting classes, labs and clinics at the campus where they were selected for the dental assisting program.

**3. Once I begin the dental assisting program will I be in class Monday – Friday?**

The schedule for the dental assisting program varies from semester to semester. Typically, students are in class Monday – Friday and the schedules are set by the faculty. Some semesters include evening classes and/or clinics.

**4. Do I need to complete the background check and drug screening to apply to the dental assisting program?**

No, the background check and drug screening are not required in order to apply. Information on how to complete the background check and drug testing will be sent to those selected for the program.

**5. Do I need to have the immunizations completed in order to apply to the dental assisting program?**

No, proof of immunizations is not required to apply. A health statement with instructions of how to complete this process will be sent to those selected for the program.

**6. What is required in order to apply to the dental assisting program?**

In order to be eligible to apply for the fall dental assisting class, you will need to complete the complete the application process through the online portal which opens between March 15, 2026, and May 15, 2026. You have until the end of the spring semester to complete the required pre-requisite courses.

**7. Am I eligible to receive financial aid?**

Every situation is different. You will need to consult with the financial aid office for all questions regarding financial aid.

**8. Can I work while enrolled in the program?**

While we realize working and finances are a reality, you will be limited in how many hours a week you can work while enrolled in the program. You will not be able to maintain a full-time job while enrolled in the program.

**9. Do your graduates find employment as a dental assistant?**

All graduates who seek employment as a dental assistant have been able to provide employment in a dental office as a dental assistant.