

Dental Assisting

CERTIFICATE

The Dental Assisting program at Northwest Florida State College is a 1 year, 3-semester vocational program leading to a Vocational Certificate in Dental Assisting. The program provides students with the skills, knowledge and clinical experiences necessary to become proficient in the field of Dental Assisting. The curriculum includes content in dental sciences, dental anatomy, dental materials, communications, preclinical dental theory, expanded functions, dental nutrition, dental community health and dental radiography. They will also be ready and eligible to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and will receive certification as a Dental Radiographer and Expanded Functions Dental Assistant in the State of Florida.



For more information call
(850) 678-5111

www.nwfsc.edu

WHAT IS A DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental Assistants perform various patient care, office and laboratory duties in both small and large dental practices. Dental Assistants help make patients as comfortable as possible, prepare patients for treatment and obtain dental records. During a patient exam, Dental Assistants work chairside with the dentist as part of the dental team. They hand instruments and materials to the dentist, and provide isolation by using suction and instrument. They sterilize instruments, prepare tray setups for dental procedures, and instruct patients on pre- and post-operative health care. Dental Assistants may perform expanded functions such as fabricating temporary crowns, prepare dental materials for restorations, expose radiographs, and process dental x-ray film. They may also remove sutures, place sealants, place rubber dams, clean and polish removable appliances, and fabricate bleach trays. Dental Assistants with front office duties schedule and confirm appointments, receive patients, keep treatment records, process bills, receive payments, and order dental supplies.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment needs for Dental Assistants is expected to increase 18% nationwide by 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.* The employment market for Dental Assistants in the State of Florida is projected to grow by 22.4% through 2024*. Due to the fact that most patients are keeping their teeth longer, there is a demand for those with this career training throughout Florida and the nation.

*Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015, retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm>

NWF CLASS OPTIONS

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SALARY RANGE

The average salary for Dental Assistants in the Southeastern USA is \$14.22 to \$17.30 per hour. A range of career opportunities for trained Dental Assistants includes: general chairside assisting, office management, specialty practice (orthodontics, pedodontics, endodontics, periodontics, oral surgery and military dentistry), dental insurance employment, commercial dental sales and dental software training.

ADMISSIONS

New students are admitted to Dental Assisting once per academic year. Students are admitted to this program for Fall Term enrollment. Eligible applicants are those who have completed the following steps in the application process by the established deadline. To apply online visit www.nwfsc.edu/admissions. You must:

- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Request official transcripts from high school, GED or any postsecondary institution attended
- Complete the NWF State College general admissions form and residency form
- Attend a mandatory Dental Assisting Program Information Session for the year of application (from August to May), call 850-729-6444, option 1 to hear the dates and times for the info sessions (held monthly).

After acceptance (on June 1) you will be required to complete:

- A physical exam with immunizations
- A background check and drug screening
- Basic Life Support CPR for Healthcare Providers is offered during the first term within the courses and is covered by course fees.

For more information on acceptance go to: <http://www.nwfsc.edu>.

FINANCIAL AID

The mission of NWF State College is to serve everyone who can benefit from a college education. NWF State College offers an extensive financial aid program. More than \$21 million in financial assistance is awarded to NWF State College students annually through federal, state, and local grants, college work-study, loans and scholarships. For detailed information on financial aid and a complete list of available scholarships, refer to the NWF State College catalog, the NWF State College Financial Aid Office or visit the Financial Aid website at www.nwfsc.edu/financialaid. Local scholarships are available through the NWF State College Foundation. For more information call 729-5370. Additional scholarships may be available through the Dental Assisting program.

ADVISING & INFORMATION

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SIX LOCATIONS OF NWF STATE COLLEGE

Niceville Campus

Fort Walton Beach Campus

Chautauqua Center

Hurlburt Field Center

Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center

South Walton Center