

Dental Assistant Education Program Admission Requirements

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Assistant Education Program.

The VSCC Dental Assistant Program is a one-year, three semester, and full-time course and is composed of didactic and clinical instruction. It is designed and organized to promote the personal and professional growth of each student. The main objectives of the program are to prepare the student to function in the dental setting and to academically qualify for the Dental Assistant National Board certification examination and the Tennessee Board of Dentistry registry examination. The American Dental Association is Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education, accredits the program in Dental Assisting.

Enclosed you will find information about admission requirements and selection, a Clinical Observation form, and a semester-by-semester outline.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call:

Desiree Sutphen, Program Director

615.230.3439

desiree.sutphen@volstate.edu

Marilyn Sweat, Associate Professor

615.230.3335

Marilyn.sweat@volstate.edu

Or 1-888-335-8722.

Thank you,

Desiree Sutphen Program

Director Dental Assistant Education Program

Program Mission Statements and Goals

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dental Assistant Education Program at Volunteer State Community College is to produce entry-level graduates that are competent assistants, registry eligible and demonstrate professional concern for their patient.

Outcome Goals:

1. Student will demonstrate the basic skills to be a competent dental assistant.
2. Students will define the terminology unique to dental assisting.
3. Students will illustrate comprehension of professional ethical standards for dental assisting.
4. Students will apply and demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills within the parameters of dental assisting.

This profession may expose the student to bloodborne pathogens.

Therefore, the Dental Assistant Program follows all rules and regulations set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The student is required to be immunized against infectious diseases as required by the clinical affiliates and OSHA regulations or complete a refusal document with the guidelines of the regulations. Clinical affiliates may refuse clinical rotation access to students who fail to obtain the required immunizations.

Program Application Procedures

1. Meet all general admissions requirements of Volunteer State Community College
2. Submit ACT scores or take the College placement exam. The scores will be evaluated to determine if learning support courses are necessary.
3. Complete a Pre-Health Sciences Interest Form
4. **If required**, successfully complete Learning Support courses prior to the interview. The ACT and or placements exam scores determine learning support course requirements.
5. First priority is given to students that have completed all basic requirements prior to the application deadline.
6. Application deadline for the Dental Assistant Program has been extended until all seats are filled. **Below is a listing of the application materials that is required for screening into the Program.**
 - Completion of documented evidence of 4 hours of clinical observation.
 - Submit a typed one page essay entitled , “Why I want to become a Dental Assistant”
 - Submit a VSCC College transcript
 - Selection is based upon:
 - *Essay
 - *Interview
 - Special consideration is granted to those applicants who have completed coursework at Volunteer State Community College other than developmental learning support courses.

Please send the required materials listed above in one envelope to; Volunteer State Community College: ATTN: Desiree Sutphen Program Director- Dental 1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin TN 37066 OR scan and send via email to desiree.sutphen@volstate.edu .

CLINICAL OBSERVATION
(4 HOURS)

Name of Facility: _____

Date of Observation: _____

Name of Clinical Instructor: _____

Name of Student: _____

1. What were the strengths of this observation?

2. What dental procedures did you have the opportunity to observe?

3. Describe the type of supervision you received during your hours of observation.

4. Were you comfortable during the time of your observation? Final thoughts or comments:
Student

Signature _____

Volunteer State Community College

Technical Certificate-Dental Assistant

Student Check List

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fall	Course	Hrs	Taken
DES 110	Fundamentals of Dental Assisting	1	
DES 120	Dental Materials & Lab Procedures	3	
DES 211	Dental Science I	4	
DES 220	The Compromised Patient	2	
DES 221	Dental Radiography I	3	
DES 231	Clinical Science I	3	
DES 241C	Clinical Practice	2	
	Total Fall	18	
Spring	Course	Hrs	Taken
DES 130	Dental Office Management	2	
DES 210	Preventive Dental Assisting	3	
DES 212	Dental Science II	5	
DES 222	Dental Radiography II	2	
DES 232	Clinical Science II	4	
DES 242C	Clinical Practice II	2	
	Total Spring	18	
Summer	Course	Hrs	Taken
DES 233	Clinical Science III	2	
DES 243C	Clinical Practice III	10	
	Total Summer	12	
	Total Technical Concentration	48	

NOTE to Scholarship students/financial aid students: Please contact your advisor for sequencing of courses each semester prior to registration.

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of Volunteer State Community College.
2. Submit ACT scores or take the College placement exam. Scores will be evaluated by the College to determine if learning support courses are needed.
3. Complete an Allied Health Department application and return this application to the following:
Desire Sutphen, Marilyn Sweat or the division secretary.
4. If required, successfully completed Learning Support Courses prior to the interview. Learning support courses requirements are determined by the ACT and/or placement test scores.
First priority in Program Admission will be given to students who have completed all basic requirements prior to the application deadline.
5. Application Deadline for the Dental Assistant Program is open until seats filled-Below is a listing of the application materials that is required for screening into the program. Screening will take place in late May.
6. Completion of documented evidence of a minimum of 4 hours of clinical observation (CPI) in a general Dentist environment.
(See attached Clinical Observation (CPI) form.
7. Submit a typed one page essay on "Why I want to become a Dental Assistant"
8. Submit a Volunteer State Community College **transcript**.
9. A maximum of 24 students admitted per year into the Dental Program.
10. Selection based on the following:
 - *Essay
 - *Interview
11. Special consideration will be granted to those applicants who have completed coursework at Volunteer State Community College other than Developmental courses. In-state students are also given special consideration.

Please send the required application materials listed above in **ONE ENVELOPE** to: Volunteer State Community College, ATTN: Desiree Sutphen, Program Director – Dental, 1480 Nashville Pike, Annex 400 Room 111C, Gallatin, TN 37066