

Montgomery Community College

Dental Assisting (DA II) Applicant FAQ Guide 2026–2027 Admission Information

1011 Page Street, Troy, NC 27371 | 910-898-9600

Welcome to Dental Assisting at MCC!

Thank you for your interest in the Montgomery Community College Dental Assisting program!

We know applying to a competitive health science program can feel overwhelming. This FAQ is designed to make the process easier to understand and help you know what is required, when it is required, and how applicants are selected.

Please read the entire guide carefully. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure all required documentation, testing, courses, and other admission requirements are completed and verified by the Admissions Office.

Important: Completing some or all of the admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Dental Assisting program. Qualified applicants are ranked using a point-selection process after the application deadline.

1. Getting Started

What is the Dental Assisting program?

Montgomery Community College's Dental Assisting program prepares students for a career in dental assisting. The program leads to a Dental Assisting diploma and graduates are considered DA II according to the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Graduates may also be eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination for Certified Dental Assistant. Eligibility pathways should be verified directly with DANB.

What is the application deadline?

April 15 (annually) is the application deadline for the Dental Assisting program.

Your program application and required admission/placement requirements must be completed by the deadline to be considered for final acceptance.

Do not wait until the deadline to begin the process! Transcripts and other documentation may take time to be received and reviewed.

Where do I apply?

Before applying to MCC, complete the North Carolina Residency Determination process at www.ncresidency.org.

Then complete the MCC general admissions online application at www.montgomery.edu.

The Dental Assisting program application will open on December 1st and remain open until April 15th. This program specific application **MUST** be completed to be considered for the program and can be located on the Dental Assisting page of the MCC website once available. <https://www.montgomery.edu/programs/dental-assisting/>

2. What Do I Need to Apply?

What are the basic admission requirements?

Applicants must complete all required admission requirements and have their information verified by the Admissions Office before they can be considered for admission.

Requirements include:

- Completing the MCC general admissions application **AND** the Dental Assisting Program application by April 15
- Completing the NC Residency Determination process
- Submitting required high school/high school equivalency and college transcripts
- Meeting the biology competency requirement

It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure documentation is received by the Admissions Office.

Do I need to submit my high school transcript?

Yes. Applicants must submit a high school transcript, high school equivalency certificate (GED®), or Adult High School transcript that meets North Carolina standards. Any necessary college transcripts must also be submitted. Official electronic transcripts can be submitted to enrollment@montgomery.edu or mailed to 1011 Page St. Troy, NC 27371.

What is the biology requirement?

You must have completed a high school or college biology course with a grade of C or higher within the past 10 years.

If BIO 106 or an equivalent course is used, additional requirements apply for transfer credit:

- The course must have been completed within 3 years of acceptance into the Dental Assisting program.
- A grade of B or higher is required for transfer credit.

What placement requirements do I need to meet?

Using the updated 2025 North Carolina Community College Developmental Education placement model, applicants must be eligible to enroll in:

- ENG 110 or ENG 111 without a co-requisite
- MAT 110 without a co-requisite

These placement requirements must be met by April 15.

3. How Are Applicants Selected?

Is admission first-come, first-served?

No. After the April 15 application deadline, qualified applicants who have completed all preliminary admission requirements are ranked using a point-selection process. The applicants with the highest ranking scores are considered for available positions.

What determines my ranking?

Your total ranking score is based on academic points and related experience points. Academic points may be awarded for ENG 111 – Writing and Inquiry, PSY 150 – General Psychology, and BIO 106 or approved biology substitutions. Related experience points may be awarded for dental-related volunteer experience, certain related courses, medical or allied health employment, dental assisting/dental laboratory/dental office management experience, completion of the Dental Assisting CCP Pathway, and completion of an allied health-related associate or bachelor's degree.

Only qualifying coursework and experience that meet the requirements and have appropriate documentation on file will be considered.

When will I find out whether I was accepted?

The point-selection process is completed in late April. Applicants will receive email notification from the Admissions Office concerning provisional acceptance or placement on the Dental Assisting alternate list. Notifications are expected to be sent to applicants in mid-May.

4. Dental Experience & Volunteer Hours

Do I have to have dental experience to apply?

Dental experience is not listed as a basic admission requirement, but qualifying dental-related experience can earn points toward your ranking. Because the Dental Assisting program uses a competitive point-selection process, gaining qualifying experience may strengthen your ranking.

How many dental experience hours can earn points?

Applicants may receive points for 16 hours of documented dental-related volunteer experience. The point value depends on when the experience was completed:

Experience	Points
16 hours completed within the last year	4 points
16 hours completed within the last 2 years	3 points
16 hours completed within the last 3 years	2 points

The appropriate MCC Student Experience Verification Form must be completed and submitted for the experience to be considered.

Where can I complete my dental experience?

The required experience must be completed under the supervision of a dentist or dental assistant. The MCC Student Experience Verification Form documents the experience and includes evaluation of attendance and

punctuality, motivation and interest, professional appearance and discipline, communication, and professional demeanor. It also documents procedures the applicant had the opportunity to observe.

Can I earn points for dental-related employment?

Yes. Certain employment experiences may earn additional ranking points when the required documentation is provided.

- 1 point: Medical or allied health employee for at least one year, documented by an employer reference letter outlining duties/responsibilities.
- 2 points: Dental Assistant I, Dental Lab Technician, or Dental Office Manager for at least one year within the last three years, documented by an employer recommendation letter on letterhead.

5. What Happens If I Am Provisionally Accepted?

Is my acceptance final?

Acceptance is provisional until you successfully complete the additional requirements listed by the program which will be covered by the Dental Sciences Director during the mandatory program orientation.

Is orientation mandatory?

Yes. A mandatory orientation session is held in June. Important information about the program will be discussed, including tuition and costs, books and supplies, class schedules, lab expectations, clinical experiences, and program expectations. Failure to attend the mandatory orientation could result in forfeiture of your position in the program.

Do I need CPR certification?

Yes. Students must have Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification before registration and must maintain certification throughout enrollment. Fully online CPR certification will not be accepted. Documentation must be submitted to the Admissions Office before registration. CPR training must be completed through an in-person training and through the American Heart Association.

Do I need a medical examination?

Yes. Qualified applicants will receive the required medical form at the mandatory orientation. The completed form must be returned by the designated deadline and must be approved before the student can register.

Students must demonstrate the physical abilities necessary to safely participate in the Dental Assisting program and profession, including the ability to bend, sit for sustained periods, stand for sustained periods, demonstrate manual dexterity, and meet required hearing and visual standards.

Will I have to complete a background check or drug screen?

Students may be required to complete criminal background checks, drug testing, and/or health screening before or during participation in class, laboratory, or clinical experiences. Requirements are determined in part by the agencies with which MCC partners for clinical experiences.

Any required testing or documentation is the responsibility of the student and may involve additional costs. An inability to meet an affiliating agency's requirements may affect a student's ability to participate in clinical experiences and progress toward graduation.

6. What Are the Important Dates?

Requirement	Deadline/Timeframe
Application	April 15
Placement requirements	April 15
Provisional acceptance notification	Mid-May
Mandatory orientation	June
Physical exam/medical form	Mid-June
Basic Life Support CPR	July 1
Priority registration	Mid-July

Important: Failure to meet required deadlines can render an application invalid or result in forfeiture of a provisional position.

7. What Classes Will I Take?

How long is the Dental Assisting program?

The Dental Assisting diploma requires 45 semester hours. The program includes coursework during the fall, spring, and summer semesters and includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.

What courses are included?

Term	Courses
Fall	DEN 100 – Basic Orofacial Anatomy DEN 101 – Preclinical Procedures DEN 102 – Dental Materials DEN 111 – Infection/Hazard Control BIO 106 – Anatomy/Physiology/Micro
Spring	DEN 103 – Dental Sciences DEN 104 – Dental Health Education DEN 106 – Clinical Practice I DEN 112 – Dental Radiography DEN 105 – Practice Management ENG 111 – Writing & Inquiry
Summer	DEN 107 – Clinical Practice II PSY 150 – General Psychology

The full curriculum totals 45 semester hours.

8. Can I Take Classes Before I Am Accepted?

Can I take general education courses before entering the program?

Yes. Applicants may enroll in required general education courses before acceptance. Completing these courses ahead of time can reduce the course load during the Dental Assisting program. However, taking these courses does not guarantee admission. You must still compete for an available position through the regular Dental Assisting admissions and ranking process.

Which courses should I consider completing before entering the program?

The guide strongly encourages students to complete general education courses before entering the Dental Assisting program because of the overall program workload. Related coursework that may be considered for ranking includes ENG 111, PSY 150, BIO 106, and certain additional English/communication courses. Course

requirements, time limits, and minimum grades apply, so students should confirm transferability and eligibility with MCC before assuming a course will satisfy a requirement.

Can courses I completed at another college transfer to MCC?

Students who have completed related courses at another institution should contact the MCC Registrar's Office regarding transferability. Transfer credit is subject to MCC review.

9. What Does the Program Cost?

How much does the program cost?

Costs are estimates and are subject to change. For an in-state student, the guide estimates the total cost of the program at approximately \$5,625.

Category	Estimated Cost
Priority Registration	\$725
Fall Semester	\$2,354
Spring Semester	\$1,925
Summer Semester	\$621
Estimated In-State Program Total	\$5,625
Estimated Out-of-State Tuition & Fees	\$15,969

The estimates include tuition, fees, books, required supplies, and other listed program expenses as described in the MCC information guide.

Are there costs beyond tuition and books?

Yes. Students are responsible for purchasing required items such as uniforms, shoes, tooth molds, safety glasses, PPE, and other required supplies. Students should also plan for transportation expenses associated with spring and summer clinical rotations, including vehicle fuel.

10. Is Financial Aid Available?

Can I receive financial aid for the Dental Assisting program?

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Scholarships and veteran's benefits information are also available. Students should contact the MCC Financial Aid Office for information specific to their situation.

Important: Financial aid does not cover the entire cost of the program, particularly expenses outside of tuition, fees, and textbooks. MCC does not participate in the Stafford Loan program.

Does MCC offer a payment plan?

Yes. MCC offers Nelnet as a convenient budget/payment plan. Nelnet is a payment plan, not a loan program. Students can obtain additional information through the MCC TechTrail portal or by contacting the MCC Business Office at 910-898-9633.

11. What If I Am Not Accepted?

What happens if I am placed on the alternate list?

Applicants who are not offered a provisional position may be placed on the Dental Assisting alternate list. Applicants will receive written notification from the Admissions Office regarding their status.

What if I am not accepted this year?

If you want to be considered for a future academic year, you must submit a new application. Previous application files will not be considered for the new admission cycle. Applicants should reapply as soon as possible, or no later than April 15 for the next academic year.

What if I am accepted but decide not to attend?

If you later want to be considered for a future academic year, you must complete a new application. Your previous application will not automatically carry forward.

12. What If I Previously Attended Another Dental Assisting Program?

Can I transfer into MCC's Dental Assisting program?

Transfer positions may sometimes be available. Students applying for transfer from another Dental Assisting program should complete the application process by October 1. Transfer credits must have a grade of B or higher and must be evaluated by MCC Student Services and Dental Assisting faculty before entrance. MCC reserves the right to test applicants requesting transfer credit for theory or clinical courses.

What if I was dismissed from another health science program?

Students who have been dismissed from a previous Health Science program must submit a Statement of Good Standing before enrolling in the Dental Assisting program.

Quick Applicant Checklist

- ☐ Complete NC Residency Determination at www.ncresidency.org
- ☐ Submit the MCC & program application by April 15
- ☐ Submit required high school/high school equivalency transcript
- ☐ Submit required college transcripts
- ☐ Verify biology competency
- ☐ Make sure all required documentation is on file with Admissions
- ☐ Submit qualifying dental experience documentation, if applicable
- ☐ Complete qualifying coursework, if applicable
- ☐ Watch for provisional acceptance/alternate-list notification in mid-May
- ☐ If provisionally accepted, attend mandatory June orientation
- ☐ Complete required medical form by the designated deadline
- ☐ Obtain BLS CPR certification by July 1
- ☐ Complete required background/drug/health screening
- ☐ Prepare for priority registration in mid-July

Have Questions?

For questions about the Dental Assisting admissions process, contact:

Olivia Owens- Success Navigator

910-898-9608

owenso1714@montgomery.edu

A Final Reminder

The Dental Assisting program uses a competitive admissions process. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee a position in the program.

Make sure your application is complete and all supporting documentation are submitted and verified by the appropriate deadlines.

Start early. Stay organized. Keep copies of your documentation. And don't wait until April 15 to make sure you're ready!