
EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – General Information

Expanded Duty Dental Assisting (EDDA) is a certificate program offered on the Grand Strand Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. The program is two (2) semesters in length, and includes classes and labs, as well required travel to clinical rotations at various dental offices in Horry and Georgetown counties.

The Expanded Duty Dental Assisting certificate prepares dental assistants to perform chair-side assisting; expose and process radiographs; perform basic business-office procedures; manage asepsis, infection, and hazard-control protocols; perform laboratory procedures; assist in the management of emergencies; provide oral-health instruction; and function as a member of the dental team.

Students in the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting program receive their education in a state-of-the-art Dental Clinic on the Grand Strand campus, under the direct supervision of licensed dentists, hygienists, and certified dental assistants. Graduates are eligible to take national board-certification exams. Most dental assistants who choose to become nationally certified take the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination. After successful completion of these examinations, graduates are certified as a Dental Assistant.

The programs in Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and have been granted the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements." The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

For more information about HGTC's accreditations, [click here](#).

Career Outlook

Well-trained dental assistants are in demand in today's growing healthcare marketplace. A flexible work schedule, whether you are employed full-time or part-time, allows you to maintain a balance between career and personal goals. Financial rewards are excellent and the work is challenging. Career opportunities are readily available in the following settings:

- Private dental practices
- Public health departments
- Hospitals

For more information about careers, visit [O*Net Online](#) for an overview of South Carolina and National earnings statistics, and Horry-Georgetown Technical Colleges [Office of Career Services](#) for more employment, career, and professional development resources.

EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – College Admission Requirements

To be admitted into the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting program a prospective student must complete the following College Admission requirements:

- Submit HGTC application;
- Pay the Admissions Application fee, if it applies;
- Submit official high school with graduation date or copy of GED;
- Submit official college transcripts of any other college(s) attended;
- Sign and Submit the Additional Admission/Placement Requirements Affidavit.

Please Note: Student should NOT complete the Background Check or Drug Screen process until after receiving notification of when to do so until being accepted into the program.

EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – Program Admission Requirements

Specific Admission Requirements for Program

Applicants will be accepted into the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting program on a first qualified, first accepted basis. Once all requirements for admission into the program have been completed, the applicant will be offered a seat for the next available semester.

- Criminal Background Check (CBC) 30 days prior to students enrolling in the EDDA Program. An applicant with an unfavorable CBC may result in student being removed from desired program. Clinical sites/facilities determine applicant's eligibility to participate in clinical studies based on their policies.
- Urine Drug Screening (UDS) 30 days prior to students enrolling in the EDDA Program. An applicant with an unfavorable UDS may result in student being removed from desired program. Clinical sites/facilities determine applicant's eligibility to participate in clinical studies based on their policies.
- Submit a Health Sciences Division Student Health Record Form indicating the candidate has the ability to perform the physical tasks required in the program prior to the start of the final semester.

- Complete 15 hours of clinical observation observing a practicing dental assistant and dentist in a private dental office. Observation can occur in a general or specialty dental office. Forms must be completed by the supervising dentist/dental assistant verifying observations. Forms must be sent to the Office of Admissions upon completion of observation hours.
- May not have more than two unsuccessful attempts in an Expanded Duty Dental Assisting curriculum General Education course.
- Payment of a non-refundable tuition deposit.

Course Sequence and Progression Requirements

A minimum grade of "C" or better is required for all courses for progression and graduation. Grades below "C" are considered course failures. Failure of one Expanded Duty Dental Assisting course will result in the student being dropped from the curriculum with eligibility for readmission the next time the course is offered. Readmission will be on a space available basis and the student will also be required to meet all admission requirements for readmission. The Expanded Duty Dental Assisting Program does not currently accept advanced placement students. All courses with a DAT prefix are restricted to Expanded Duty Dental Assisting majors.

EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – Requirements After Acceptance to Program

Once the College has notified you have been accepted into the program the following items must be completed in a timely manner. Failure to complete these requirements within the designated time frame will prohibit your progression into the program. These are out of pocket expenses not covered by financial aid.

- Submit \$250.00 deposit to reserve your seat.
- Submit Certified Background Check and Drug Screening. Cost varies. The return of an unfavorable CBS and/or UDS may result in a student being removed from the desired program. Clinical sites/facilities determine applicant's eligibility to participate in clinical studies based on their policies.
 - NOTE:** If you complete the background check before being instructed to do so you will have to redo the process with an additional cost incurred.
- The cost of the Certified Background Check and Drug Screening is required at the beginning of semester one while in the program.
- Complete a Health Physical and submit proof of required immunizations. Cost varies.
- Show proof of current Health Care Providers CPR.
- Supplies and fees: Students are responsible for items above and beyond tuition, such as uniforms, clinical supplies, etc. (To see a complete list of program costs on the program

web page under Student Resources. These figures are approximations and additional expenses may be incurred.)

EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – Licensure to Practice

Expanded Duty Dental Assistants in the United States have the option to pursue additional certifications upon graduation. Certifications encouraged include:

Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination

- Three component, comprehensive exam
- Covers three topics: General Chairside Assisting (GC), Radiation Health and Safety (RHS), and Infection Control (ICE)
- Fully computerized
- Cost is \$450; Each topic can be taken individually for \$270
- Given at the Pearson Professional Testing Centers located in Charleston, Columbia or Wilmington, NC
- Mock board versions of this exam will be taken during your first and second semester in the program.

Certification for Nitrous Oxide Monitoring

- This course is offered at HGTC with approval from the South Carolina Board of Dentistry; the exam is offered at HGTC or a testing center.
- Must make a 75% or higher to pass.
- The course and exam is usually scheduled in April of each year.
- Cost is \$25 application fee to the South Carolina Board of Dentistry.

EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTING – Healthcare Worker Risks

As dental assistants work with very sharp instruments and needles, there is always a risk of a needle/instrument stick. This could place the student at risk for HIV and/or Hepatitis C as there are no vaccines for these diseases.

There is also a risk for Hepatitis B; however, the student is required to take the Hepatitis B vaccination series to be protected against this disease. If the student does not wish to take this

series, the student MUST sign a Declination Form, which will be kept in the student's personal file in the Program Director's office. (When the student declines the vaccination series, he/she should also realize if the student was to do a clinical rotation outside of the HGTC Dental Hygiene Clinic, the dental facility may not allow the student to rotate through their clinical setting.)

Throughout the program, each student will receive appropriate education on the Bloodborne Standards and Infection Control (per OSHA and CDC guidelines) utilized in the treatment of dental patients. The student will be tested on this material and MUST demonstrate classroom/laboratory and clinical competency prior to patient treatment.

After you have read the above information and program requirements, you must click this [LINK](#) and enter your name, email address, student ID or birthdate and program in order to complete this admission's requirement.

PROGRAM CONTACT

For questions contact Michelle Meeker at 843-839-1091 or michelle.meeker@hgtc.edu.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College reserves the right to change program admission requirements at any time. You will be required to adhere to any changes made at the time you submit your application