

College of the Redwoods Community College District

Registered Dental Assisting Program Applicant Information

Dental Assisting Program Application Filing Period:

- **Applications are accepted February 1st through August 1st each academic year.**

Eligible applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Dental Assisting Program Information:

- **Accreditation:**

The Dental Assisting Program at College of the Redwoods is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA) and approved by the Dental Board of California (DBC). This allows graduates to be eligible for the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) exam, for State licensure, and the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam, for National certification.

- **Schedule:**

The Dental Assisting Program is offered each academic year, beginning in the fall semester, 990 hours are completed, including 330 clinical hours. The Dental Assisting Program at College of the Redwoods is a full-time/ full-load commitment, 5 days a week. Class are Monday- Friday approximately from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM daily. Students enrolled in the Program begin each semester early.

Dental Assisting Program Eligibility:

- **Applicants must have a valid Student Identification Number from College of the Redwoods.**

Eligible applicants **must** have a College of the Redwoods student identification number. This requires applicants to additionally apply to the College, an application can be completed online at [College of the Redwoods Admissions](#) and a student identification number will be emailed.

- **Applicants must include college transcripts or high school diploma or equivalency.**

Eligible applicants **must** include official college or high school transcripts or equivalency, such as a GED attached to this application for acceptance into the Dental Assisting Program. Transcripts can be posted “in-progress”. This is an accreditation standard requirement of the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

- **Applicants must have a satisfactory cumulative Grade Point Average meeting or exceeding a 2.0.**

Eligible applicants **must** be in good academic standing. Students on Academic Probation, Level 1, Level 2, or students dismissed from the College due to unsatisfactory academic performance are not eligible for the Program.

Dental Assisting Program Requirements:

- **Acceptance:**

Students accepted in the Program will be notified by letter in mid-May. This is done by certified mail and is sent to the address indicated on the application. Additionally, information is sent to your College of the Redwoods email. Accepted students are automatically registered in the Dental Assisting Program courses by the Program Coordinator and are required to attend orientation.

- **Mandatory Orientation:**

Students are required to successfully pass DA 150, Dental Assisting Program Orientation, satisfying all requirements. Orientation is held one week prior to the beginning of school. At orientation students will complete the required CPR training, pay additional fees, and receive further information about the required dental supply kit requirement to purchase within the first two weeks of school.

- **Fees:**

Students are responsible for paying all registration fees through [Webadvisor](#) and/or through [Financial Aid disbursements](#). Students failing to do so will be dropped by Admissions, positions are not held. Additionally, students will be required to pay extra fees for the required uniform and supplies, a complete breakdown of estimated costs has been included in the application for your review.

- **Education Plan:**

Students are strongly advised to meet with an Advisor to create an Education Plan prior to applying. This will assist the student in knowing which education pathway is appropriate. To qualify for graduation, employment, and licensure students must complete Nutrition (HO15) and a communications studies course (COMM1000- Introduction to Public Speaking **or** COMM6-Small Group **or** COMM7-Interpersonal Communication **or** COMM8-Intercultural Communication. These classes may be taken prior to enrollment in the Dental Assisting Program courses or concurrently while enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program.

Dental Assisting Program Requirements Continued:

- **Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure:**

Students participating in the Dental Assisting Program curriculum have the potential for occupational exposure. Students can be exposed to bloodborne pathogens through direct or indirect contact. Risk for droplet infection through per mucosal (contact with mucous membranes, such as mouth, nose, and eyes) or percutaneous infection (through the skin, such as cut, needle stick, and puncture) exists due to the nature of clinical dental assisting. Students are routinely exposed to blood and saliva and are determined to be Category 1, requiring all Standard Precautions and the use of Personal Protective Equipment or attire. Due to the potential risk of infection, students are strongly advised to have current vaccinations and the flu shot. Please note due to the nature of dental assisting students can be exposed to both bacterial and viral infections such as Covid-19, H1N1 Flu Virus, HIV, Hepatitis A – E, Herpesviruses, Tuberculosis, Legionnaires' Disease, Tetanus, Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), etc. This is the nature of the occupation, and students participate at their own risk.

Additionally, students participating in the curriculum have the potential to encounter hazardous chemicals and radiation exposure.

- **Physical Examination Clearance and Vaccination Records:**

Students enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program will need to have a completed physical exam and submit a Medical Clearance Form completed by a physician, physician's assistant, or family nurse practitioner. Additionally, due to the risk of communicable disease proof of immunity for Hepatitis B (3 doses), Measles, Mumps, Rubella-MMR (2 doses depending on age and vaccination timing), Varicella (2 doses or history of chickenpox documented by healthcare provider), Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis- Tdap(1 dose) and TST-TB Skin Test or IGRA -TB Blood test for tuberculosis no more than 6 months are required to participate in the Dental Assisting Program as a full-time student. Yearly, flu vaccinations are not required but recommended.

- **Dental Examination Clearance:**

Students enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program will be evaluated by the College of the Redwood Dental Health Center dentist. This includes x-rays. Students must have clearance prior to participating in laboratory activities scheduled for mid-fall semester.

Students needing urgent care due to dental neglect such as abscesses, loose teeth, gross caries, and advanced periodontal disease will be referred to a local dentist and/or clinic and will be responsible for the cost incurred due to treatment. For safety and risk liability issues a student presenting the conditions listed above will not be able to participate in laboratory activities until treatment is sufficient for clearance from the student's dentist. This can result in insufficient hours to complete the program.

- **Dress Code:**

Students enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program are enrolled in a professional program where students participate in a place of business other than the College. Uniform and business attire must be clean, and in good repair. Additionally, dental assisting program students must follow Center for Disease Control Guidelines and must not wear acrylic nails or nail polish. Make-up must be discrete, tattoos covered, and jewelry/ piercings are limited to one per ear and others cannot be worn during lab and clinical setting. Hair must be conventional, clean, pulled back and extremes such as bright colors or neon avoided.

- **Employment:**

Graduates' employment rates are exceptional! According to the US Department of Labor, dental assistants are expected to be among the fastest growing occupations. We work closely with our local dental community to provide internship and jobs opportunities for our students.

- **Contact:**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Dental Assisting Program eligibility or requirements please contact the Program Coordinator, Hillary Reed at 707-476-4253 or hillary-reed@redwoods.edu.

General Information:

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Education Pathway:

(DA 150, DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156, DA 156C, DA 163, DA 164, DA 165, DA166, DA 167, HO 15, COMMC 1000 **or** COMM 6 **or** COMM7 and local GE courses)

Application Verification:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only:

Date Received Completed Application:		Date Acceptance Letter Sent:	Version: 1/30/25
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College of the Redwoods Community College District

Registered Dental Assisting Program of Study Information

Program of Study - Dental Assisting Certificate

Requirements: Certificate of Achievement, Dental Assisting		TOTAL UNITS 32.0	
DA 150	Dental Assisting Orientation	0.5 Units	9 Hours
DA 153	Dental Assisting Science	2.0 Units	36 Hours
DA 154	Dental Assisting Materials and Duties	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 155	Dental Radiography	2.0 Units	72 Hours
DA 156	Dental Assisting Fundamentals (Chairside)	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 156C	Dental Assisting Fundamentals Clinical Laboratory Experience	1.5 Units	81 Hours
DA 163	Advanced Dental Assisting Science	2.0 Units	36 Hours
DA 164	Advanced Dental Assisting Functions in Dental Specialties	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 165	Advanced Dental Radiography	2.0 Units	72 Hours
DA 166	Dental Assisting Functions in Dental Practice Management	1.0 Units	18 Hours
DA 167	Advanced Dental Assisting Functions and Duties (Clinical Experience)	6.0 Units	288 Hours
HO 15	Nutrition	3.0 Units	54 Hours
COMM	Communications Studies Requirement Course COMMC 1000 <u>or</u> COMM 6, <u>or</u> COMM 7, <u>or</u> COMM 8	3.0 Units	54 Hours

Program of Study - Dental Assisting Degree

Requirements: Associate of Science Degree, Dental Assisting		TOTAL UNITS 6.0	
DA 150	Dental Assisting Orientation	0.5 Units	9 Hours
DA 153	Dental Assisting Science	2.0 Units	36 Hours
DA 154	Dental Assisting Materials and Duties	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 155	Dental Radiography	2.0 Units	72 Hours
DA 156	Dental Assisting Fundamentals (Chairside)	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 156C	Dental Assisting Fundamentals Clinical Laboratory Experience	1.5 Units	81 Hours
DA 163	Advanced Dental Assisting Science	2.0 Units	36 Hours
DA 164	Advanced Dental Assisting Functions in Dental Specialties	3.0 Units	90 Hours
DA 165	Advanced Dental Radiography	2.0 Units	72 Hours
DA 166	Dental Assisting Functions in Dental Practice Management	1.0 Units	18 Hours
DA 167	Advanced Dental Assisting Functions and Duties (Clinical Experience)	6.0 Units	288 Hours
HO 15	Nutrition	3.0 Units	54 Hours
COMM	Communications Studies Requirement Course COMMC 1000 <u>or</u> COMM 6, <u>or</u> COMM 7,	3.0 Units	54 Hours
	CR (Local) General Education Course Requirements (Areas A, B, C, D1, D2, D3)	15.0 Units	

College of the Redwoods Community College District

Registered Dental Assisting Program Fees

Following is a breakdown of the approximate costs of the Dental Assisting Program. Please note that prices are subject to change due to changes in vendors rates.

Fall Semester:
Registration (15 units \$46 per unit, please note higher tuition is charged for non-resident students) \$690
Student Services Fees \$47
Annual Parking Permit \$80
Dental Assisting Textbooks \$220
Uniform Requirement (1 pair black shoes, 5 black scrub pants and tops, 1 black jacket) \$800
Procedural Gown (Payment Due at Orientation) \$110
Name Badge (Payment Due at Orientation) \$16
American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR Course (Payment Due at Orientation) \$85
HESI Registered Dental Assistant Preparation Exam (Payment Due at Orientation) \$63
Darby Dental Kit (Purchased the first week of school online) \$1,650
Fall Semester Fee Estimate Total: \$2,961

Spring Semester:
Registration (17 units \$46 per unit, please note higher tuition is charged for non-resident students) \$782
Student Services Fees \$47
Spring Semester Fee Estimate Total: \$829

Upon graduation from the Dental Assisting Program students are eligible to take the California Dental Board (RDA) written and practical examination and the Dental Assisting National Board (CDA) written examination. The following are the approximate costs:
Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Application Fee \$180
RDA Testing Fees \$48
Live Scan \$90
Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Application Fee \$450
Travel and Accommodations for out of the area for testing <i>Variable</i>
End of Program Fees Estimate Total: \$768