

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FHS)

Dental Assisting Program Guide | 2025-2026



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Welcome from Vice President, Academic and Students

Welcome from the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome from the Associate Deans, Faculty of Health Sciences

Contact Information

Administrative Staff

Office Staff

Student Advisor / Field Placement Officer

Program Coordinators

Quick Links | Student Services & Resources

Important Information

DC 2030 – Strategic Vision

Academic Advising | Student Advisors

Academic Integrity

Student Supports

Access and Support Centre (ASC)

Wellness Coaching

Important Dates

Academic Grading and Progression

Student Conduct Policy and Procedures

Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)

Program Specific Information

Program of Study

Program Guide

Please note the following important information:

Durham College (DC) strives to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. Please note that the academic curriculum is continually reviewed and revised to ensure program quality and relevancy. As such, the college reserves the right to modify or cancel any course, program, fee, procedure, and timetable or campus location at any time. Please consult the DC website for the most current information. Publish date: July 2025.

Welcome from Vice President,
Academic and Students



Dear Students,

Welcome to Durham College (DC)! You've made an excellent choice with DC. We offer an extensive range of industry-informed and community-orientated academic programs and extraordinary student services. Our students develop the professional and durable skills needed to build meaningful careers and make a positive impact in the world.

DC continues to lead the way by supporting students, delivering exceptional teaching and learning that is enhanced with opportunities for experiential learning and technology-enabled education. Our goal is to inspire students to create success for themselves and their communities through innovative and transformative education.

As this new semester begins, it's essential to recognize that our world is evolving rapidly. By choosing to study at DC this year, you've demonstrated a commitment to growth and adaptability, which will serve you well in your chosen field. Embrace new ways of learning and connect with your fellow students, faculty members, program coordinators, student advisor, and associate deans. They are all valuable resources to support your academic journey and career planning.

We eagerly anticipate supporting your success and believe you'll soon discover why DC ranks among Canada's top colleges.

Have a successful academic year!

Dr. Jean Choi

Vice President, Academic

Welcome from the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences at Durham College! I am thrilled to have you join our vibrant and supportive community, where your journey toward a meaningful and rewarding career in health care begins.

A career in health sciences is more than a profession, it's a calling to make a difference in the lives of others. At Durham College, we are committed to providing you with an education that is immersive, hands-on, and grounded in real-world experience. From our state-of-the-art simulation labs to clinical placements and on-campus facilities like the DC Dental Clinic, DC Kids Speech and Language Clinic, and DC Spa, you will gain the skills and confidence needed to thrive in today's dynamic health care environment.

Our programs are designed to empower you with the knowledge, competencies, and compassion required to succeed. But beyond academics, you'll find opportunities to connect, grow, and discover your passion. Whether you're just beginning your journey or continuing your studies, know that you are supported every step of the way by dedicated faculty and staff who care deeply about your success.

I encourage you to take full advantage of everything our Faculty and College has to offer. Ask questions, get involved, and never stop learning. You are now part of a community that believes in your potential and is here to help you achieve your goals.

I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish.



Dr. Rebecca Milburn
Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome from the Associate Deans, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences at Durham College!

Whether you are beginning a one-year certificate, two-year diploma, or graduate certificate program, you are now part of a vibrant and inclusive learning community committed to excellence in healthcare education, practice, and research.

As you begin this exciting chapter, know that your program has been designed to support your growth both personally and professionally. Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experience, and field placement opportunities, you will develop the knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in your chosen field.

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to your success. You will be supported by instructors who are passionate about their work and by student advisors, placement teams, and college-wide services that are here to help you navigate your academic journey. We encourage you to make the most of these resources and to actively engage with your peers and learning environment.

This guide contains key information to help you get started, including academic expectations, placement details, and support services for health, wellness, and academic success. We encourage you to review it carefully and reach out with any questions.

We are proud to welcome you to the Faculty of Health Sciences and look forward to supporting you in the year ahead.

Warm regards,



Gillian Dunn
Associate Dean



Dr. Aimee Karagiorgakis
Associate Dean



Lindsey MacIntosh
Associate Dean

Contact Information

Office: SW106 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

Website: [Faculty of Health Science \(FHS\)](#)

Chat Line: [Chat Line](#)

Main Phone Line: 905 721 2000

Faculty Office: 905 721 3080

Administrative Staff

| | |
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| Gillian Dunn | Associate Dean Email: Gillian.Dunn@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106K Extension: 2727 |
| Dr. Aimee Karagiorgakis | Associate Dean Email: Aimee.Karagiorgakis@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106G Extension: 2078 |
| Lindsey MacIntosh | Associate Dean Email: Lindsey.MacIntosh@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106H Extension: 2078 |

Office Staff

| | |
|---|--|
| Lisa Schultz | Administrative Coordinator Email: Lisa.Schultz@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106F Extension: 2288 |
| Lori Barbara (Nelles) Madihah Khan | Administrative Assistant Email: Lori.Barbara@durhamcollege.ca Email: Madihah.Khan@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106 Extension: 3080 |

Student Advisor / Field Placement Officer

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Rahul Kumar | Animal Care Critical Care – E-Learning (graduate certificate) Clinical Bioinformatics (graduate certificate) Dental Office Administration Personal Support Worker Personal Support Worker Flex Email: Rahul.Kumar@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106N Extension: 2199 |
| Jessica McDaniel | Practical Nursing SEM 3&4 Practical Nursing SEM 3 & 4 FLEX Email: Jessica.Mcdaniel@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106L Extension: 2408 |
| Hayden McIntosh | Emergency Services Fundamentals Fitness and Health Promotion Primary Care Paramedic Advanced Care Paramedic Pre Health-Sciences-College Pre Health-Sciences-University Personal Support Worker Email: Hayden.McIntosh@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106I Extension: 6629 |
| Erin Smith | Communicative Disorders Assistant Dental Assisting (Levels I and II) Dental Hygiene Massage Therapy Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Recreation Therapy Email: Erin.Smith@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106M Extension: 2501 |
| Lisa West | Practical Nursing SEM 1,2 & 5 Practical Nursing – Flex SEM 1,2 & 5 Email: Lisa.West@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW106J Extension: 2626 |

Program Coordinators

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Erica Arbour | Recreation Therapy Email: Erica.Arbour@durhamcollege.ca Office: A239 Extension: 3673 |
| Dale Button | Primary Care Paramedic Advanced Care Paramedic Email: Dale.Button@durhamcollege.ca Office: JW201 Extension: 7381 |
| Samantha Button | Emergency Service Fundamentals Email: Samantha.Button@durhamcollege.ca Office: B240 |
| Joanna Gallacher | Practical Nursing and Practical Nursing Flex Email: Joanna.Gallacher@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW205 Extension: 2478 |
| Leslie Graham | BScN Year 1 & Collaborative Program RPN to BScN Email: Leslie.Graham@durhamcollege.ca Office: SW205 Extension: 3716 |
| Jennifer Kellett | Dental Hygiene Email: Jennifer.Kellet@durhamcollege.ca Office: A237 Extension: 2033 |
| Laura Maybury | Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist Assistant Email: Laura.Maybury@durhamcollege.ca Office: C209A Extension: 2847 |
| Jesse Parsons | Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Certificates and Diplomas Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Advanced Diplomas and Degrees Email: Jesse.Parsons@durhamcollege.ca Office: C151A Extension: 2572 |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Michelle Payne | Animal Care Email: Michelle.Payne@durhamcollege.ca Office: 22-10 Extension: 4193 |
| Kelly Rainey | Critical Care Nursing Email: Kelly.Rainey@durhamcollege.ca |
| Carolyn Selkirk | Massage Therapy Email: Carolyn.Selkirk@durhamcollege.ca Office: A237 Extension: 2185 |
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| Lisa Virtue | Communicate Disorders Assistant Email: LisaVirtue@durhamcollege.ca Office: Extension: |
| Michael Williams-Bell | Fitness and Health Promotions Email: Michael.Williams-Bell@durhamcollege.ca Office: C209B Extension: 6533 |
| TBD | Clinical Bioinformatics Email: Office: Extension: |
| TBD | Personal Support Worker & Personal Support Worker - Flex Email: Office: Extension: |

[Quick Links | Student Services & Resources](#)

[International Centre](#)

[Access and Support Centre | ASC](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[Academic Support](#)

[Campus Health and Wellness Centre](#)

[Career Development](#)

[First Peoples Indigenous Centre | FPIC](#)

[Test Centre](#)

[Student Academic Learning Services | SALS](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Library](#)

[Campus Safety](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[Academic Policies](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)

[Course Outlines](#)

[IT Services](#)

[Hired Portal](#)

| Dental Assisting (Level I &II) (DAII) | | | | | | Weekly Breakdown | | |
|--|------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------|---------|------------|
| Course Name | Mod | Code | Prerequisites | Corequisites | | Lec Hrs | Lab Hrs | FP/Alt Hrs |
| DAII-SEM1 | | | | | | | | |
| Dental Sciences | | DENT 1102 | | DENT 1106 | | 4 | 0 | |
| Clinic Theory 1 | | DENT 1103 | | DENT 1104 | | 3 | 0 | |
| Clinic Practice 1 | | DENT 1104 | | DENT 1103, DENT 1105 | | 0 | 4 | |
| Dental Materials | | DENT 1105 | | DENT 1104 | | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Oral Health and Prevention | | DENT 1106 | | | | 3 | 0 | |
| Dental Radiography 1 | | DENT 1107 | | | | 3 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | 14 | 7 | 2 |
| DAII-SEM2 | | | | | | | | |
| Clinic Theory 2 | | DENT 1203 | DENT 1103 | DENT 1207 | | 4 | 0 | |
| Principles of Record Keeping and Emergencies | | DENT 1204 | DENT 1102, DENT 1103 | DENT 1203 | | 3 | 0 | |
| Dental Practice Administration | | DENT 1205 | DENT 1102 | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Nutrition and Health Promotion | | DENT 1206 | | | | 3 | 0 | |
| Clinic Practice 2 | | DENT 1207 | DENT 1102, DENT 1104, DENT 1106 | DENT 1203, DENT 1208 | | 0 | 6 | |
| Dental Radiography 2 | | DENT 1208 | DENT 1104, DENT 1107 | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Oral Health in Diverse Populations | | DENT 1209 | | | | 3 | 0 | |
| Clinical Consolidation and Field Placement | MOD2 | DAII 1200 | SPEC 0000 | | | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| | | | | | | 15 | 10 | 96 |

NOTES:

OPT1/OPT2/OPT3 - OPTIONS - Students choose subjects. OPT1 subjects are included in total hours per week.

GNED - Courses with this Subject Code are "General Education" subjects, GNED 0000 you are required to choose a 'General Education Elective' that term when you register.

SPEC 0000 - when displays as a pre-requisite you are required to have passed all previous courses and have a GPA of 2.0.

COOP - the co-op work term takes place in the following semester (spring/summer).

MOD1/MOD2 - course is delivered over a portion of the semester.

Important Information

DC 2030 – Strategic Vision

Durham College's role as an educator, research hub, and partner has never been more critical. Graduates must be career-ready, equipped with skills and experience that align with industry demands and contribute to our local and global communities.

At this pivotal moment, our forward-thinking Strategic Vision will guide our growth, deepen our impact, and empower our students, employees, and communities to thrive.

This Strategic Vision sets out our four Goals: Future-Focused, Sustainable, People Centred, and Community Connected.

These goals provide a framework to guide decisions, align priorities, and drive meaningful outcomes, ensuring our resources and efforts are directed toward areas of greatest impact.

Read more about DC 2030 | Strategic Vision [here](#).

Academic Advising | Student Advisors

Student Advisors are committed to your success and are available year-round to support, encourage, plan, and advocate for students needing academic assistance in the following areas:

Academic Planning & Support

- Develop individual academic plans, including support for:
 - Failed courses or low GPA
 - Re-entry into a program
 - Off-stream course mapping
 - Reduced course loads (in collaboration with the Access and Support Centre – ASC)
- Assist with decisions around full-time or part-time studies
- Map out courses and upcoming semesters
- Help with timetable changes
- Review graduation requirements

Pathways & Program Decisions

- Identify future career goals and align academic decisions accordingly
- Discuss short- and long-term academic goals
- Explore program transfers or additional course options (e.g., Professional and Part-Time Learning)
- Support pathway planning to university or postgraduate programs
- Help find equivalent credits

Connection to Services

- Refer and provide access to key student supports such as:
 - Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)
 - Access and Support Centre (ASC)
 - Campus Health Centre
 - Other college resources to promote student success

Contact your Student Advisor

Visit the [Student Advisor website](#) to find contact information and connect with your advisor.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity in teaching, learning and research is fundamental to our mission and is an expectation of the DC community. Acts that undermine academic integrity contradict our core values, erode educational inquiry and diminish the quality of our scholarship and reputation.

To ensure the highest academic standards, students are accountable for the work they produce, and student work must be the product of their efforts. The [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#) provides a comprehensive explanation of DC's expectations regarding academic integrity.

Student Supports

DC offers students a variety of services to help you achieve academic success. From accessibility accommodations, financial aid, health services and wellness coaching to student life, recreation and career development, our knowledgeable staff provide holistic support to help students reach their greatest potential.

Please visit the [Student Services](#) page for more information on each of the student service areas.

Access and Support Centre (ASC)

The Access and Support Centre (ASC) provides services to students who are temporarily at-risk or identified with an exceptionality, to ensure equal access to all aspects of the academic environment. The ASC provides accommodations to meet students' individual needs through assistive technology, counseling and coaching.

The ASC team works in collaboration with faculty and other service areas to provide full opportunities for academic success for all students.

For more information on services available, please visit the [ASC website](#).

Wellness Coaching

Wellness coaches will meet with you individually to assist with developing a success plan, explore ways to reduce your stress and support your overall mental health and wellness while at college. Wellness coaches provide a safe, confidential space to explore what is blocking you from being your best possible self. During times when you are feeling overwhelmed or need someone to talk to, the wellness coaches will be there for you. For more information on coaching, please visit the [Coaching webpage](#).

Important Dates

DC strives to keep you informed of important dates throughout the academic year. Please review the 2025-2026 important dates that include fee payment deadlines, web registration, add/drop and grade release dates etc. You can find this information on the [Durham College website](#) and on [MyDC](#). Please review [MyDC](#) regularly for updates and reminders on important dates.

Academic Grading and Progression

Please refer to the ACAD 112 – [Academic Grading Policy and Procedure](#) documents for a complete overview of grading practices and ACAD 127 – [Academic Progression Policy and Procedure](#) to clearly understand the requirements necessary for a student to progress through an academic program.

Student Conduct Policy and Procedures

Durham College is dedicated to contributing to an academic community that is safe, inclusive, and respectful, where students develop individually and in concert with their peers. All members of the college community have the right to study or work without undue interference.

Students have the responsibility to respect the well-being, personal worth and dignity of all members of the campus community, which includes being mindful of individual accountability and self-regulation. Students must not adversely affect the rights of others or disrupt the constructive atmosphere of the College's learning environments.

Please refer to the [Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#) for a complete overview of student rights and responsibilities, well-being and to ensure the campus community reflects the values of the college.

Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)

SALS helps DC students to achieve their academic goals through free services and resources, including subject specific support (math, accounting, biology, chemistry, physics and statistics), academic reading and writing, learning strategies, and assistance with English language proficiency. Students also have access to peer tutoring, online resources located through the MyDC landing page (under "Learning Resources"), and SALS ONLINE academic resources, videos, and quizzes in DC Connect.

Please email [SALS](#), or visit the [SALS website](#), for information on accessing resources and services, scheduling an appointment, registering for workshops, or signing- up to request or be a peer tutor.

Dental Assisting Program Information

Mission Statement

“To cultivate a student-centered and inclusive educational environment that promotes academic excellence, lifelong learning, and respect for diversity. The program is dedicated to preparing graduates who demonstrate the knowledge, clinical competence, and professional integrity required to deliver culturally sensitive, client-centered care in collaboration with the interdisciplinary oral health care team.”

Revised May 2025

Introduction

The Dental Assisting program holds as our philosophy a set of beliefs and values that are based on: evidenced based curriculum, teaching process, learning experience, methodology of delivery and evaluation, dental assisting practice and client care. The following paragraphs describe the beliefs and values inherent to our program.

Program Description

This program offers academic studies, clinical experience and field placement to prepare students to work effectively in a variety of dental-related roles as a level II dental assistant. The students will also learn to provide intra oral care, oral health education, business administration skills and dental laboratory skills.

Academic and clinical studies are based on the most current theory of dental assisting practice, emphasizing ethical principles, and working interdependently and collaboratively with health-care professionals in a variety of practice settings. The field placement provides opportunities to gain insight and/or experience in the following dental settings: general dentistry, specialty dentistry, community dentistry, and the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Durham College.

Graduates of this program are eligible to write the National Dental Assisting Examination Board (NDAEB) examination.

Accreditation

Durham College Dental Assisting program has been granted national accreditation status by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

Statements of Philosophy

Curriculum

The program is mapped to meet the most current theories and practices. Faculty are committed to yearly revision of Course Outlines to ensure an up to date, research-based curriculum is offered. The following documents provide a basis for curriculum revision: Outcomes as published by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD), the National Dental Assisting Examination Board (NDAEB) core skills and competencies CDAC requirements and the CDAA National Occupational Standards. Feedback and input regarding all aspects of the program are valued and encouraged. Opportunity to share ideas among all participants in the learning process is seen as important for the growth of staff, faculty, learners and the program; therefore, course evaluations will be completed at the end of each course. In addition, student focus groups are held every semester to facilitate student success and contribute to the growth and development of the program.

Teaching

Faculty will strive to:

- Imbue professionalism, respect, and accountability.
- Model and endorse the required commitment to life-long learning that includes formal and informal study intended to maintain competence and high-quality service.
- Help learners build on their strengths by using shared experiences, talents and abilities.
- Model sound learning processes by supporting and encouraging learners and each other in the process of learning.
- Involve learners in the process of seeking knowledge.

Learning

- Learning is a life-long process of personal and professional growth, as well as the realization of one's human potential.
- Learning is an active, participatory, and continuous process.
- Learning builds on prior experiences, stimulates reflection on experience, fosters the formulation or reformation of the meaning of experience and contributes to self-esteem, self-knowledge and self-empowerment.
- Learners are adults viewed as individuals with unique backgrounds and specific needs.
- Learners bring valuable prior knowledge and past experience to the learning situation.
- Learners need opportunity to participate in, and share responsibility for determining their learning.
- Learners are empowered when they participate in a liberated, creative, and collaborative learning process. In order for the learner to develop the ability to critically think, reflect and integrate new information, the learner must engage in active dialogue with the fellow classmates, faculty and oral health care providers.
- Teaching-learning is a dynamic process that occurs in formal and informal context.

Methodology of Delivery and Evaluation

To challenge and stimulate a learner's achievement, high standards and expectations are seen as essential. A variety of approaches in program delivery and evaluation are aimed at maximizing a learner's opportunity for success. Learning is enhanced when high value is given to various ways of gathering knowledge. Knowledge is derived from an understanding of self, others, practice, theory and research, all of which interconnect in the generation and application of knowledge with practice. Evaluation methods should; ensure quality, encourage critical thinking, be based on reflective practice, be frequent and ongoing. Evaluation should create meaning and be significant to the learning experience.

Dental Assisting Practice and Clients

Dental Assisting practice requires knowledge of theory, caring practice, critical reflection, and collaboration with other health care professionals. The dental assistant as an oral health provider applies theory to practice to promote health and healing, employing moral and ethical reasoning. All clients will be served in a professional manner, upholding the right of the client's choice of treatment. Clients are treated in a confidential, safe, and respectful manner. The promotion of sound oral health and total well-being will be a primary focus for the client, faculty, staff and the learners.

The clinical environment will meet the highest standards of practice to provide quality care for the public.

Dental Assisting Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate, as a beginning dental assisting professional has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Maintain client and personal safety in the practice environment.
2. Contribute to the development of a comprehensive client profile by using a variety of data collection methods in collaboration with the client and other health professionals and in compliance with privacy legislation.
3. Contribute to the development of a comprehensive plan for oral health services and programs in collaboration with the client and other health professionals.
4. Provide oral health services and programs, as identified in the comprehensive plan as permitted within the scope of practice.
5. Contribute to the evaluation and reporting of appropriate aspects of the oral health services and programs by using a variety of sources including the client profile.
6. Act in a professional and competent manner.
7. Maintain client records and manage office procedures in compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.

Durham College Dental Assisting Levels I and II Program Goals

The goal of the dental programs is to prepare a graduate who is able to practice competently within her/his defined scope of practice in the dental profession. To accomplish this, the program will:

1. Establish a climate for a positive learning experience.
2. Deliver a curriculum which reflects the current needs of the dental profession.
3. Encourage students to strive for excellence.
4. Encourage students to be involved in the learning experience and to value this process.
5. Role model excellence to inspire students to emulate these behaviors.
6. Emphasize the importance of attendance, commitment, and perseverance as a means to achieve success.
7. Encourage personal, warm and supportive interactions with the teaching team and with fellow students.
8. Create unity and pride in the program and in the dental profession.
9. Encourage an appreciation for the value of peer and self-evaluation.
10. Recognize, reward, and celebrate behaviours contributing to success.
11. Encourage honest and open communication.
12. Deliver excellent instruction and learning experiences.
13. Provide clearly defined information regarding rules, regulations, policies, procedures, curriculum, and evaluation methods.
14. Encourage co-operative work and sharing of responsibilities in the learning experience.
15. Assess student progress continually and suggest remedial activities if required.
16. Foster increasing independence in the learner.
17. Encourage a desire for lifelong learning.

Profile of the Durham College Dental Assisting Levels I and II Graduate

The graduate, as a beginning Level I and II Dental Assistant:

1. Is educated to uphold ethical and legal obligations using the CDAA code of ethics as a moral template.
2. Cares for populations including persons, families, groups and communities from a variety of cultures, by establishing caring relationships that foster trust, respect, collaboration and empowerment.
3. Collaborates with other regulated health care professionals to provide optimum care to the client.
4. Is committed to lifelong learning for personal and professional growth.
5. Contributes to the promotion to health and healing by providing safe, effective, ethically client-centered care within provincial legislation.
6. Applies chair-side, intra-oral skills as well as basic business office procedures using the most current and innovative methods for optimum efficiency.

Career Opportunities for Dental Assistants

A variety of dental practice settings exist in Canada today. Settings include private dental practice (general and specialty), community health (federal, provincial, regional and municipal government programs), educational and correctional institutions, the Armed Forces, hospitals, and retail and insurance industries.

Dental Assisting Program Awards

- 123 Dentist Award - granted to a student who demonstrates dedication, enthusiasm, collaboration, and is client service oriented
- Clinical Excellence Award – awarded to a student who exhibits exceptional clinical performance
- Academic Achievement Award – awarded to a student who has achieved the highest GPA within the program

Professional Associations

In order to practice Level II duties in Ontario, dental assistants must pass the NDAEB examination.

National Dental Assisting Examination Board (NDAEB)

The NDAEB is an independent board endorsed by many dental assisting associations and regulatory bodies. The Board has nationwide representatives from the Canadian Dental Assistant's Association, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, dental assisting educators from accredited and non-accredited educational institutes, and the public. The purpose of the NDAEB is the development and administration of the National Dental Assisting board examination and issuance of a National Board Certificate.

Presently, in Ontario, Level II Dental Assistants must apply for and write the National Board Examination, to be eligible to practice the intra oral level II skills of a Dental Assistant. In order to qualify to write the exam, you must be a successful graduate of a Level II Dental Assisting program. There is a fee of **\$730.00** for this examination. Information regarding the NDAEB exam and application process can be found on the website listed below. The faculty will review the requirements and the application process with the students before the end of the school year.

National Dental Assisting Examination Board
204-2283 St. Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa, ON
K1G 5A2

Phone: 1-613 526-3424
Fax: 1-613 526-5560
Web: www.ndaeb.ca
Email: office@ndaeb.ca

Ontario Dental Assistants Association (ODAA)

The ODAA supports dental assistants as respected healthcare professionals through visionary leadership and recognized credentials, fostering a unified sense of pride among its members. The ODAA is founded by and for dental assistants, and provides the designation of "certification" to its members.

Students are encouraged to apply on line, within the first few months of the program. Reduced fee for student membership is \$40+tax.

Ontario Dental Assistants Association
869 Dundas Street West
London, ON
N5W 2Z8

Phone: 1-519-679-2566 or 1-800-461-4348
Fax: 1-519-679-8494
Web: <http://odaa.org/>

Canadian Dental Assistants Association (CDAA)

The CDAA is the national organization for dental assistants that fosters opportunities for growth and is the voice for Canadian Dental Assistants. Membership through provincial organizations, the ODAA is the link to the CDAA.

Canadian Dental Assistants Association
1785 Alta Vista Drive, Suite 105
Ottawa, ON
K1G 3Y6

Phone: 1-613-521-5495
Web: www.cdaa.ca

Beliefs about the Teaching/Learning Process

The following are our beliefs about the teaching-learning process:

- A teacher is accountable to the student and the Dental Programs to provide an environment conducive to learning.
- The environment for learning is vital in that it should be supportive and provide direction for learning. Respect for the individual and her/his learning needs will promote a positive environment where learning can take place.
- Learning is a dynamic and continuous process which is manifested by growth and change in behaviour.
- Behavioural objectives, clearly stated and encompassing all learning domains (cognitive, psychomotor and affective) enhance the learning process.
- A student is accountable for active participation in the teaching-learning process. As a student progresses through the Dental Assisting Program, they should expect to assume increasing responsibility for learning.
- In keeping with our program philosophy and the professional requirement for life-long learning, the teacher fosters increasing independence in the learner.
- Students benefit from constructive feedback which is provided both immediately and regularly in an atmosphere of trust. An emphasis on positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior is essential to its success.
- Evaluation is an integral part of the teaching-learning process. Based on clearly stated objectives, it describes the student's progress and achievement of goals. Self-evaluation by the student is an essential element of evaluation. The teacher will provide both formative and summative evaluation.
- Formative evaluation provides feedback to learners about their progress in achieving the established objectives and occurs continuously throughout the learning experience. It serves a diagnostic purpose as it informs students of areas where further learning is necessary.
- Summative evaluation measures final outcomes or results and determines learner achievements and progress as they relate to the learning objectives.

Program Specific Academic Policies & Procedures

Program Policies

All Regulations and Policies as outlined in the Durham College Academic Policies and Procedures are in effect, plus the following which are specifically related to the Dental Assisting Levels I and II program.

Dental Records Policy

Durham College is committed to the collection, use and/or disclosure of personal information in a responsible manner in keeping with Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). The safety, retention, protection and transfer of personal information in keeping with the Prescribed Records Regulations of the CDHO, within the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), are upheld by Durham College. No verbal or written personal, medical or dental information will be given to anyone outside of the dental facility without a client's written permission. Appropriate care in the destruction of personal information will be exercised to prevent unauthorized access to the information provided in the client's records.

Electronic Devices and Social Media

All electronic devices must be off and stored away during all classes and clinics/labs.

NOTE: At no time may a student take pictures or video without consent, or post anything related to faculty, staff, clients, students or class/clinic/practicum/lab on any social media sites.

Attendance

Because of the relationship between theoretical knowledge and clinical practice, it is essential that students participate in all learning activities provided. Failure to attend class/clinic may result in gaps in knowledge, grade reduction and potential safety hazards to the clients.

Therefore, full attendance is expected for both class and clinic. Refer to individual course outlines for specific attendance requirements.

Throughout the school year, you will be expected to perform clinical skills on fellow students and the public. Working in partnerships with your classmates, and practicing newly learned skills with and on fellow students, prior to treating clients, is a significant component of the learning process.

Students who are not prepared to work collaboratively in the client role with their fellow students will not be able to achieve the learning outcomes of the Clinic courses. If there is a medical reason which may prevent you from participating, you will need to submit a medical certificate verifying this, prior to beginning your program.

Students can expect that one or more of the evaluation components or criteria for all practicum courses (including clinic and lab) will involve timed elements. The timed element of the evaluation component or criteria CANNOT be waived or extended for safety considerations.

If extenuating circumstances occur and you must be absent from class, please notify the appropriate professor by e-mail before 8:00 a.m. on the day of absence.

Failure to notify may result in loss of opportunity to:

- a) Hand in assignments or complete "in process activities"
- b) Write tests,
- c) Complete practice/lab sessions.

Please refer to Health Policies and Guidelines for additional information.

To avoid disruption students are expected to be punctual. Students may not be allowed into the classroom or leave the classroom when lecture is in process.

In keeping with the student's rights and responsibilities as well as professional guidelines and conduct, any student, faculty or staff deemed to be under the influence of any substance, will be removed from theory classes or clinical sessions immediately.

Policies for Tests and Examinations

Students will be required to present their student I.D. card for all tests and for all formal exams. If an I.D. card is not presented, the student may be asked to leave the room and may not be allowed to rewrite the test or exam. Please ensure that you bring your **DURHAM COLLEGE STUDENT I.D.** card to *all* tests and exams.

****Tests may occur outside of class hours. This will be noted on individual course outlines. A test schedule outlining all tests for the semester will be distributed at the beginning of each semester.**

For all tests, examinations and assignments, a deduction of 1/2 mark per error will be made for incorrect spelling of terminology, to a maximum of 10% of the value of the paper. All marks will stand.

To support student success, a student who is unsuccessful in **one** course, that would otherwise prevent them from progressing into the next semester, may write a 2-hour comprehensive supplemental assessment for that course. To be eligible for the supplemental, the student needs to have achieved a grade within 5% of the passing grade for that course. Regardless of the grade attained on the supplemental, the passing grade for the course will be the final grade entered (50% or 70% depending). For health and safety reasons, supplemental opportunities will not be provided in clinic practice courses.

Students who have been unsuccessful in more than one course in a semester, will not be eligible for this opportunity.

Late Arrival

Students will not be admitted to the room if any student has already completed the test and left the room. No time extensions will be granted for late arrivals.

Missed Tests

If unforeseen circumstances arise and notice is provided to the instructor by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled test, students may be eligible to write the missed test at another time. The student will need to apply in writing to the individual professor on the **first day of return**. The application to write an alternate test must outline the reason for missing the test and the arrangements required to write the test. Alternate test times may be scheduled in the evening or on weekends, as close to the original date as possible. Missed tests must be written AFTER the scheduled day and time.

Under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the Associate Dean, the weight of a missed test may be added to another evaluation item.

Missed Labs and Clinics (Radiography Practice, Dental Materials and Clinic)

Students' eligible to seek support for missed practical evaluations in Radiography, Dental Materials, or Clinic must have notified the instructor prior to the absence of the circumstances, and then apply to the individual professor the first day back following an absence or **may not be eligible for a make-up evaluation.**

Assignments

You will be notified at the beginning of each course regarding the plan for evaluation of student progress. It is important that assignments be handed in to the appropriate professor on the date specified. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. Late assignments will lose 10% per day (including weekends). Assignments will not be marked, if submitted one week past the due date. If you are experiencing any difficulty with assignments, speak to your professor in **advance** of the due date.

It is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments in on time and to submit them directly to the instructor of the course.

If the deadline is not met, it will also be the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and to arrange for a time when the instructor will be available to accept the assignment. It is the student's responsibility to **keep a copy** of each assignment that is submitted. If the student will be absent on the due date, they can negotiate with the instructor for an **earlier submission date**. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange for this change.

Clinical Manuals

These manuals provide a comprehensive overview of clinical and lab procedures and protocol. They will be included in course packages for the corresponding courses, outlined on the booklist, purchased at the bookstore.

Evaluation Criteria

These manuals provide a comprehensive overview of the clinical and lab evaluation system.

Modified Program of Study

If for any reason a student has had a modification to the program of study, causing a delay in the progression from semester I clinic practice to semester II clinic practice, the student will be expected to review level II skills independently in the clinic, outside of their given timetable. A mandatory supervised remedial practice session will then be scheduled with an instructor to provide oversight and feedback. This is in place for client safety purposes, and will include application of Rubber Dam, Alginate Impressions, and application of PFS. The criteria for these skills can be found in the semester I clinic practice study guide.

Staff Availability

All dental programs staff and faculty encourage open communication with students. Appointments are available based on the individual teacher's timetable. Teachers may be contacted by e-mail or in person after class.

Equipment Responsibility

Dental students are responsible for all assigned equipment. Due to the expense of this equipment, lost or damaged equipment will be replaced or repaired at the student's expense.

CPR Level C and Standard First Aid

A current Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation C.P.R. certificate, Basic Rescue Level C as well as Standard First Aid, must be completed and students are required to maintain certification throughout the program and field placement. It is important to note that the Durham College Dental Assisting program requires that the CPR be recertified every year. Some agencies and CPR instructors that provide recertification may note that it is valid for three years, but Dental Assisting students at Durham College must adhere to the program policy of recertification every year.

Entry Immunization Form

All required entry immunization and pre-practicum documentation must be submitted to Synergy Gateway <https://verified.sgappserver.com> our 3rd party documentation collection and verification partner by the specified deadline for each semester / year in the program. Deadline dates will be communicated to students through email in 1st year and through DC Mail email in the remaining semesters. Exceptions to these dates are non- negotiable due to liability and safety regulations.

Please Note: There are costs associated with completing the Electronic Requirements Verification (ERV) process for your placement. Service fees for [Verified](#), a documentation collection and ERV verification partner, immunizations, lab tests, and certifications. **Please keep all receipts for income tax purposes.** Please review the field placement component of your program in order to determine the pre-placement requirements and due dates for submission. [Dental Assisting Field Placement](#)

Please visit the Campus Health Centre to request assistance in completion of these forms. Completion of the form may require more than one visit. The Campus Health Centre is located in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Centre (CRWC), G-1030. Hours of operation are 8:00 am - 6:30 pm. Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday. 905-721-3037
<https://durhamcollege.ca/student-life/health-and-wellness/campus-health-and-wellness-centre>

Criminal Reference Check

Each student must provide the original copy of a current Criminal Reference Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening.

Procedures and regulations for obtaining criminal record search documents are controlled by the RCMP and the Government of Canada. These procedures and regulations may change at any time without notification. Durham College will endeavor to notify students of any changes when they come to our attention. As of March 1, 2011, the following reflects the current procedures and regulations of the RCMP with regard to the Vulnerable Sector Verifications.

The RCMP identified a means to enhance vulnerable sector checks to make the searches more rigorous. In the interest of public safety, the enhancements were quickly implemented to protect vulnerable members of society.

As a result of the enhancement, a Vulnerable Sector Verification now requires the submission of fingerprints whenever the gender and date of birth of an applicant match to an existing pardoned sex offender record. This is not an accusation of criminality, but a requirement for a thorough verification to confirm identity and protect personal privacy. This process will take at least four months.

This is an excerpt from the RCMP web site <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/criminal-record-checks>

Dental Assisting Clinical Consolidation & Field Placement- DAI 1200

The final course in the Dental Assisting program of study is Clinical Consolidation/Field Placement. This course will run for 4 weeks immediately following the completion of semester II classes, and take place in a general dental office in your community.

The various community experiences within the Dental Assisting program provide the student with the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and practical experience within the field of dental assisting through interactions with community practices. These experiences give students a greater understanding of their role as a dental assistant, as well as to prepare them to practice collaboratively and interprofessionally with health care professionals in a variety of practical settings. There will be clinical observations within public health and a specialty practice, opportunity to deliver education to targeted groups within the community, and a 96-hour field placement in a general practice as the final component in the Dental Assisting program. The 96 hours Field Placement will take place as an additional 4-week experience following the end of semester II, and upon successful completion of all course requirements.

In order for the student to begin field placements and ensure coverage, a Student Declaration of Understanding must be completed and returned to the Placement Officer BEFORE the placement date begins.

As well, all field placement modules must have been completed and submitted in semester I, and student must have valid Standard First Aid and CPR certificate.

These forms are kept by Durham College for one (1) year after completion of the program, and inform all parties that there is coverage in the event of an accident.

In the event of an accident while on placement the student must inform their field placement employer and student must notify Durham College Dental Department contact person and provide details of the accident. The student must complete an accident form within 24 hours of the accident. The link to the online form is www.durhamcollege.ca/forms/accidentinjury.

In order to be eligible to begin Field Placement a program cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required. Students will be notified prior to field placement if their GPA does not meet the requirements and completion of the program will be delayed.

Field placement meetings will take place at the beginning of semester II, and documents and submission dates will be reviewed at that time. Students who have not submitted the necessary paperwork by the date given, may not be eligible for field placement. This will result in additional course fee(s) being applied and delay in completion of program and certificate.

Health Policies and Guidelines

Certain protective health measures such as entrance physical examinations, up to date immunization, criminal reference checks, CPR certification and/or special tests are expected of all students, the professor and staff prior to an experience in the agency.

Please refer to the Practicum Guide for further details and for submission instructions.

1. Entry Immunization Form

All required entry immunization and pre-practicum documentation must be submitted to Synergy Gateway <https://verified.sgappserver.com> our 3rd party documentation collection and verification partner by the specified deadline for each semester / year in the program. Deadline dates will be communicated to students through email in 1st year and through DC Mail email in the remaining semesters. Exceptions to these dates are non-negotiable due to liability and safety regulations.

Please visit the Campus Health Centre to request assistance in completion of these forms. Completion of the form may require more than one visit. The Campus Health Centre is located in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Centre (CRWC), G-1030. Hours of operation are 8:00 am - 6:30 pm. Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday. 905-721-3037 <https://durhamcollege.ca/student-life/health-and-wellness/campus-health-and-wellness-centre>

Completion of an “Informed Consent for Immunization Exemption” must be provided to your placement officer if you are requesting exemption from any immunizations on the EIF form. These forms are only available through an appointment in the Campus Health Centre. Immune status is required via blood titre levels and any record of past vaccinations must be supplied for the exemption status to be processed. TB testing is mandatory.

2. Tuberculosis Surveillance (TB skin testing)

All first-year students and new entry students are required to provide proof of TB status as a part of the Entry Immunization Form. A two-step TB skin test is required. If a two-step TB skin test has been completed in the past, proof of this testing must be provided as well as a current yearly one step. If you are a known positive conversion, proof of a negative chest x ray which is less than 1 year old, must be submitted along with documentation of the positive test result.

3. Influenza Immunization (Flu vaccination)

For placements in long term care facilities, students may be required to have had vaccination for influenza. Please ensure you are immunized and keep a record for your placement agency. If a student has not had an influenza immunization and a flu outbreak occurs in the agency and/or on the unit the student is assigned to, the student may be required to stay away from the practicum area until the flu outbreak is over.

4. Illness

Durham College has a responsibility to the practicum agencies concerning infection and disease control. As a student, you are responsible for assessing your ability to attend practicum/field placement. When reporting off due to illness, comply with the established policy for each agency. If illness or injury occurs while in a practicum segment, contact your practicum/placement officer for further direction.

Contact your healthcare professional or make a medical appointment through the Campus Health Centre for clearance to attend placement if you suspect you have:

- Contact with a communicable disease
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea persisting for longer than 24 hours
- Respiratory symptoms such as a persistent fever of greater than 38 degrees and a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath

5. Management of Persons with Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids

Definition of "Exposure": exposure encompasses situations such as a break in integrity of the skin due to needle stick injury, scratches, bites, lacerations and contact as a result of splashing with blood or other body fluids to which Routine Practices apply.

- a) If an exposure occurs, immediately apply first aid measures.
 1. Wash the area with soap and water
 2. If eyes(s) splashed, rinse with tap water or saline with eye(s) open
 3. If mouth is affected, spit out suspected fluid and rinse with water
 4. If splashed and contact with skin occurs, wash area with soap and water, then assess the integrity of the skin contact
- b) Reporting and post-exposure management.

Students should report exposures immediately after they occur, as certain interventions that may be appropriate, for example prophylaxis against Hepatitis B, must be initiated promptly to be effective.

The exposed student should:

1. Notify their immediate supervisor (i.e.: practicum professor)
2. Follow the policy of the agency in which the exposure occurred
3. If no policy exists, report to emergency department of local hospital to determine risk level, treatment, counselling and suggested follow-up
4. Complete the Durham College Accidental-Injury form. Relevant information includes the following:
 - Date, time, location (agency) of exposure
 - Job duty being performed by student/staff at the time of exposure
 - Details of exposure, including amount of fluid or material, type of fluid/material, severity of exposure, duration of contact
 - Description of source of exposure
5. Details about any referral for assessment/treatment
6. Follow – up counselling and ongoing evaluations by a physician can be arranged if the student does not have a physician

6. Travel Outside Canada

Please be aware that upon returning from travel outside of Canada, if unwell, you are advised to consult with your healthcare professional or make a medical appointment through the Campus Health Centre

Courses

[Click here for course outline](#)

Semester 1

- [Dental & Orofacial Anatomy \(ANTY 1500\)](#)
- [Anatomy & Physiology \(BIOL 1503\)](#)
- [Clinic Theory I \(CLIN 1500\)](#)
- [Clinic Practice \(CLIN 1501\)](#)
- [Dental Materials \(DENT 1509\)](#)
- [Preventive Dentistry \(PREV 1501\)](#)
- [Radiography Theory 1 \(RAD 1500\)](#)

Semester 2

- [Clinic Theory II \(CLIN 2502\)](#)
- [Dental Records \(DENT 1502\)](#)
- [Field Placement \(FWK 2500\)](#)
- [Office Management/ Dental Software \(MGMT 1500\)](#)
- [Nutrition I \(NUTR 1500\)](#)
- [Clinic Practice II \(PRCT 1501\)](#)
- [Radiography Theory II \(RAD 2502\)](#)
- [Radiography Practice \(RAD 2503\)](#)
- [Diverse Populations \(SPEC 1502\)](#)