Mission

In keeping with the mission of Calhoun Community College, the mission of the Dental Assisting program is to graduate knowledgeable, skilled, and comprehensively prepared entry level dental assistants for the provision of quality care that meets the needs of employers and the general public.

Vision

The program is committed to student success and seeks to provide graduates with the knowledge and experience to demonstrate technical competence in entry level dental assisting skills and provide safe, effective, professional, and compassionate care to a diverse patient population.

Philosophy

- The dental assisting program believes that dental care is an essential component in the promotion of health and the prevention of disease and that the dental assistant, performing under the direction and supervision of a dentist, is a vital member of the health care team who promotes awareness of oral health and the dental profession.
- We believe our mission is fulfilled by a scientific educational plan with a strong clinical component which presents instruction in a logical sequence and provides ample opportunity for knowledge acquisition and the development of critical-thinking, problem-solving, and psychomotor skills. We also believe in curriculum which emphasizes the humanistic aspects of patient care as well as professional behaviors that facilitate positive therapeutic relationships with patients including respect and sensitivity for ethnic, cultural, and spiritual differences.
- We believe that education for dental assistants should be provided by a CODA accredited program within an organized academic setting.
- We believe learning is a shared process in which both the student and instructor accept responsibility for the learning objectives. As adult learners, dental assisting students are expected to actively participate in the learning process, effectively communicate their needs to appropriate individuals, and fully utilize the opportunities provided by the educational program. We believe learning is more likely to occur in an atmosphere in which students feel respected and accepted.
- We believe dental assisting education responds to changes in health care and incorporates those changes into the educational plan. Therefore, the dental assisting program collaborates with clinical education facilities, graduates, and employers and values input from the community which it serves.
Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the dental assisting program the student will:

- Demonstrate clinical competencies of an entry level dental assistant.
- Function safely and efficiently as a member of the dental team under the direction and supervision of the dentist.
- Communicate effectively with patients, their families and healthcare team members.
- Provide dental services with respect and compassion for all clients regardless of individual, national, racial, cultural, faith, age, socioeconomic, health, or other differences.
- Exhibit legal and ethical behavior which adheres to professional conduct standards for dentistry.

Program Objectives

- At least 75% of students admitted to the dental assisting program will graduate in three consecutive semesters.
- 80% or > of employers will rate the CCC DA graduate as being comprehensively prepared for entry into practice.
- 80% or > of program graduates will indicate satisfaction with their preparation for entry level practice.
- 75% or > of DA graduates seeking employment will be hired as a dental assistant within six months of graduation.
- 25% or > of DA graduates will obtain the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential within one year of graduation.