

## About the MPCC

**Mid-Plains Community College** consists of 18 counties in the West-Central and South-West portion of Nebraska. The MPCC system consists of three separate and distinct campuses in North Platte and McCook.

**McCook Community College**, founded in 1926 as McCook Junior College, was the first two-year institution in Nebraska and offers a truly traditional collegiate atmosphere with on-campus housing and academic program offerings targeted at students of all ages.

**North Platte Community College's** history began when construction of a new Post Office and Federal Building in North Platte in 1964 opened up a new opportunity for post-secondary academic education in the western part of the state. In 1974, they moved to their current home at the **McDonald-Belton** Building. In 1965, Mid-Plains Vocational-Technical School also located in North Platte, began offering a variety of vocational, Health Occupations, and career focused programs. Today, the **North Platte Community College North Campus** offers state-of-the-art programs in a variety of technical fields.

In 1973 legislative action merged McCook and newly formed North Platte together to become **Mid-Plains Community College**.

## Contact Information

### NORTH PLATTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NORTH CAMPUS

*A Division of Mid-Plains Community College*

**Dental Assisting**  
**1101 Halligan Drive**  
**North Platte, NE 69101**

**308-535-3650, 800-658-4308, Ext. 3650**  
**FAX 308-535-3692**  
**[www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)**

Mid-Plains Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, marital status, political affiliation, veteran's status, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Area Director of Human Resources, Mid-Plains Community College-North Campus, 1101 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE 69101, 308 535-3678 or toll free 800 658-4308, Ext. 3678. Inquiries involving students should be directed to the Area Dean of Student Life, Mid-Plains Community College, 1205 East Third Street, McCook, NE 69001, 308 345-8109, or toll free 800 658-4348, Ext. 8109.

If you are a person with a disability and require an accommodation while attending this college, please contact: Robin Rankin, North Platte Community College-North Campus, 308 535-3637 or 800 658-4308, Ext. 3637; Sherry Mihel, North Platte Community College-South Campus, 308-535-3710 or Jeremy Jorgensen, McCook Community College, 308 345-8128 or 800 658-4348, Ext. 8128.

Rev1/06



## Health Occupations

## Dental Assisting

McCook Community College  
North Platte Community College  
Broken Bow, Imperial, Ogallala & Valentine  
Extended Campuses

# Health Occupations Division || *Dental Assisting*

## DENTAL ASSISTING

The Dental Assistant is a dental auxiliary who will assist the dentist by performing basic supportive function such as preparation of patients, transferring instruments, handling all aspects of dental radiology, preparation of materials used during treatment and office functions.

The Dental Assistant program is an 11-month course of study leading to a diploma in Dental Assisting. Upon successful completion of the course of study, students are eligible to write the CDA examination by the Dental Assisting National Board. The Dental Assisting program is accredited by the American Dental Association Council of Dental Accreditation. Upon completion, graduates will be state certified for radiology and coronal polishing.

The curriculum includes content in Dental and Biological Sciences, Communications, Emergencies, Dental Radiology, Nutrition and Preventative Dentistry, Dental Assisting Concepts and Clinical Practice. The clinical practice will be for a minimum of 300 hours at three clinical sites, in which the student will participate in practical application in the dental office. Placement of matrix bands is taught to a pre-clinical level.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The need for certified dental assistants is growing every year, both in Nebraska and other parts of the country. Salary levels vary with each locale. The kind of employment varies from private dental practice, group dental practice, dental assisting education to hospital dental services.

## GENERAL ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Mid-Plains Community College requires that a student entering this program have a high school education or its equivalent. He/she must be at least 16 years of age, not currently enrolled in a secondary school and mentally and physically capable of benefiting from this program.

Students must also be currently certified in First Aid and CPR and have had a course in typing before entering the program. Students also need a Hepatitis immunization series.

### Program Objectives

- Perform tasks related to entry level dental assisting employment.
- Demonstrate an understanding of personal and work characteristics that contribute to effective dental assisting performance.
- Use effective communication skills appropriate to dental assisting.
- Apply the theory of dental assisting to specific jobs using critical thinking/reasoning skills while working independently.
- Use mathematical data and reasoning skills in relation to dental assisting.
- Be prepared to take external certification examination.

### Recommended Electives

Students may consider classes in accounting, biology, chemistry, speech, health, algebra, and psychology to help prepare them for employment as a dental assistant.

### Potential Dental Assisting students

- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must have a high school diploma or a GED.
- Must be currently certified in First Aid and CPR while enrolled in the program.
- Must have word processing skills.

*For more detailed information on the admission procedure and process, please contact the program director.*

## DENTAL ASSISTING DIPLOMA

### Suggested Sequence of Study

First Semester (Fall)		Credit Hours
DENT 1110	Dental Assist. Concepts	5
DENT 1120	Dental Materials	3
DENT 1130	Dental Science	4
BIOS 1100	Basic Anatomy & Physiology OR	3
DENT 1140	Structure and Function	2
SPCH 1050	Interpersonal Communication OR	
SPCH 1090	Fund of Human Communication	3
		Total 17-18

Second Semester (Spring)		Credit Hours
DENT 1220	Dental Assist Clinical Practice I	2
DENT 1230	Prevention & Nutrition	3
DENT 1250	Dental Radiology	4
DENT 1260	Dental Assist Procedures	4
DENT 1270	Pharmacology & Medical Emergencies	2
BSAD 2250	Business Communications	3
		Total 18

Summer Session		Credit Hours
DENT 1510	Dental Assist Seminar	1
DENT 1520	Dental Assist Clinical Practice II	5
		Total 6

**Program Total Hours 41-42**

### Associate of Applied Science Degree

<b>Dental Assisting Program Credit Hours</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>General Education Electives</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>A.A.S. Degree Total</b>	<b>60</b>

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For More Information about the Dental Assisting program and other MPCC Health Care programs log on to the MPCC Website at [www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)

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