

# DENTAL ASSISTANT

## Technical Diploma

**Program Code: 30-508-2**

**Total Credits: 17**

In this program, you will learn to use dental equipment, expose and process radiographs, assist with dental emergencies, record medical and dental information, maintain a supply inventory, and perform related dental office and laboratory procedures. Students in the program receive practical training on-site with one of our dental office partners. Hands-on experiences include working with dental practice management software, dental equipment and materials. Students will also operate x-ray units and other digital imaging devices to perform radiographs.

To learn more about this program, visit [mstc.edu/programs](https://mstc.edu/programs).

### ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715-422-5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit [mstc.edu/advising](https://mstc.edu/advising).

### NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- Submit a Mid-State application at [mstc.edu/apply](https://mstc.edu/apply).
- Send official transcripts to:  
Mid-State Technical College  
Student Services  
500 32nd Street North  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at [mstc.edu/financial-aid](https://mstc.edu/financial-aid).
- Set up student MyCampus account at [mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance](https://mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance).
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at [mstc.edu/advising](https://mstc.edu/advising).

[mstc.edu](https://mstc.edu) • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



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Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President – Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715-422-5325 • AAEO@mstc.edu. 3/2026-AC

## CAREER PATHWAY



Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.

**Begin at any point.**

### **Prior Learning**

#### **Credit for Prior Learning**

- Certifications and Licenses
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at [mstc.edu/cpl](https://mstc.edu/cpl).

### **High School Credit**

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at [mstc.edu/dc](https://mstc.edu/dc).

### **Technical Diploma**

- Dental Assistant (17 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Dental Assistant, Dental Hygiene Assistant, Dental Lab Assistant, Orthodontic Assistant

### **Bachelor's Degree**

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit [mstc.edu/transfer](https://mstc.edu/transfer).

### **Other Options**

Related Programs: Health & Wellness Promotion, Health Information Management, Medical Assistant, Medical Coder, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Sterile Processing Technician, Surgical Technology

## OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Dental Assistant graduate, to be able to:

- Perform a variety of entry-level supportive dental procedures.
- Manage infection and hazard control.
- Produce diagnostic radiographs.
- Perform basic dental laboratory procedures.
- Demonstrate professional behaviors, ethics, and appearance.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Faculty will let students know when and how the TSA is being assessed in the program.

## ADDITIONAL ENTRY CRITERIA

To apply to the Dental Assistant program, please submit the following documents to Mid-State Admissions:

- Criminal Background Statement of Understanding and Release of Information form.

**Mid-State Technical College • Admissions**  
**500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494**

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A list of specific physical, emotional, and mental tasks needed to function as a Dental Assistant is available at [mstc.edu/programs/dental-assistant](http://mstc.edu/programs/dental-assistant). Contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator in the Student Services & Information Center to receive assistance.

## CLINICAL-RELATED REQUIREMENTS

Prior to placement at a clinical site, students need to pay for a criminal background check and provide documentation of required health work.

Students are responsible for ensuring all requirements remain current during program enrollment.

Clinical sites have the right to refuse a student's placement based on inadequate health records, pending charges, or conviction records. Students with a criminal history may not be able to complete clinical courses. Mid-State will make two attempts to place a student in an appropriate clinical experience. If Mid-State is unable to place the student after two attempts, the student will be withdrawn from the clinical course and will not be able to advance in the program.

## PROGRAM PROGRESSION AND COMPLETION

In order to maintain a passing status and progress in the program, students must:

- Repeat courses not completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to progressing in program courses with co- or prerequisites.
- Receive a grade of "C" or better in all courses required for graduation.
- Please note that the ability to repeat courses is dependent upon availability in courses. Students may be required to apply for program re-entry in order to repeat courses within the program's instructional area.

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit [mstc.edu/studenthandbook](http://mstc.edu/studenthandbook) to view Mid-State's student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State's Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

## ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum placement scores.

### College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 3 credits

Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

### Pre-Algebra 10834109 3 credits

Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

## MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM\_1)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM\_2)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS\_1)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS\_2)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a “C” or better

*Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.*

## SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

### Dental Assistant • 17 Total Credits

Term	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
17 Credits	31508301	Dental Health Safety	No	1
	31508302	Dental Chairside	No	5
	31508303	Dental Materials	No	2
	31508304	Dental & General Anatomy	No	2
	31508305	Applied Dental Radiography	No	2
	31508306	Dental Assistant Clinical	No	3
	31508307	Dental Assistant Professional	No	1
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

#### Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit [mstc.edu/cpl](http://mstc.edu/cpl) or contact your academic advisor for details.
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
- Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to [mstc.edu/schedule](http://mstc.edu/schedule).
- Get the latest updates online at [mstc.edu](http://mstc.edu).

**Applied Dental Radiography**

**31508305**

**2 credits**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to operate x-ray units and expose bitewing, periapical, extra oral, and occlusal images. Emphasis is placed on protection against x-ray hazards. Students also process, mount, and evaluate dental images for diagnostic value. In this course students demonstrate competency on a manikin. In addition, students expose bitewing and periapical images on a peer or patient.

Students gain further experience in exposing images on patients in the clinical portion of their program. This course also provides the background in radiographic theory required for students to make informed decisions and adjustments.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Dental Assistant program 305082 and 31508301 Dental Health Safety; Corequisites: Dental Assistant Clinical 31508306, Dental & General Anatomy 31508304, Dental Chairside 31508302, and Dental Materials 31508303*

**Dental & General Anatomy**

**31508304**

**2 credits**

Apply fundamentals of general and dental anatomy to informed decision-making and to professional communication with colleagues and patients.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the Dental Assistant program and 31508301 Dental Health Safety; Corequisites: 31508305 Applied Dental Radiography, 31508302 Dental Chairside, 31508306 Dental Assistant Clinical, 31508303 Dental Materials*

**Dental Assistant Clinical**

**31508306**

**3 credits**

Apply skills in a clinical setting with patients. Integration of core abilities and basic occupational skills are emphasized.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Dental Assistant program 305082; Corequisites: Dental Chairside 31508302, Dental & General Anatomy 31508304, Applied Dental Radiography 31508305, Dental Health Safety 31508301, and Dental Materials 31508303*

**Dental Assistant Professional**

**31508307**

**1 credit**

Develop professional appearance and image and learn to work within ethical guidelines and legal frameworks. Develop and customize a portfolio and on-going professional development plan to prepare for the workforce.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the Dental Assistant program 305082 and 31508301 Dental Health Safety; Corequisites: 31508306 Dental Assistant Clinical, 31508305 Applied Dental Radiography, 31508302 Dental Chairside*

**GPS for Student Success**

**10890102**

**1 credit**

Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes.

This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

**Dental Chairside**

**31508302**

**5 credits**

Prepares dental assistant students to chart oral cavity structures, dental pathology, and restorations and to assist a dentist with basic dental procedures including examinations, pain control, amalgam restoration, and cosmetic restoration. Students will also develop the ability to educate patients about preventive dentistry, brushing and flossing techniques, and dental procedures, using lay terminology. Throughout the course, students will apply decoding strategies to the correct use and interpretation of dental terminology.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the Dental Assistant program and 31508301 Dental Health Safety; Corequisites: 31508306 Dental Assistant Clinical, 31508304 Dental & General Anatomy, 31508305 Applied Dental Radiography, 31508303 Dental Materials*

**Dental Health Safety**

**31508301**

**1 credit**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to respond proactively to dental emergencies, control infection, prevent disease, adhere to OSHA Standards, and safely manage hazardous materials. Students also take patient vital signs and collect patient medical/dental histories. CPR certification is a prerequisite; students will be required to show proof of certification before beginning the course. This course is a WTCS aligned course required in both the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assisting programs.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Dental Assistant program 305082*

**Dental Materials**

**31508303**

**2 credits**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to handle and prepare dental materials such as liners, bases, cements, amalgam, resin restorative materials, gypsum products, and impression materials. They also learn to take alginate impressions on manikins and clean removable appliances. This course is aligned to serve students in the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assistant programs.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Dental Assistant program 305082 and 31508301 Dental Health Safety; Corequisites: Dental Assistant Clinical 31508306, Dental & General Anatomy 31508304, Applied Dental Radiography 31508305, and Dental Chairside 31508302*