

Dental Practicum Fee Proposal

The College's four-term dental assistant certificate program prepares students to meet the requirements to become dental assistants with expanded functions (EFDA). Successful completion of the program leads to eligibility to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) certified dental assisting (CDA) exam.

Dental assistants perform a variety of tasks including taking X-rays, scheduling appointments, and providing excellent patient care. They need on-the-job training, a certificate or a diploma for the job, and they earn an average salary of [\\$40,080 per year according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Each year the college receives 28-32 applications for 30 spots.

Currently, students pursuing the dental assistant program have additional program-specific fees of \$3,970. These fees are in addition to the standard tuition and fees charged to students.

The College would like to expand our dental program offerings to include an associate degree in dental hygiene. The expansion into this degree would be contingent on the passage of additional fees specific to this program.

Dental hygienists examine patients, clean teeth, and provide general dental care. They must have an associate degree or bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, and typically earn an average salary of [\\$77,230 per year according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for dental services will increase as the population ages and as research continues to link oral health to overall health.

RCC has over 75 students interested in the program with 50 receiving advising in the last 6-9 months.

Adding a dental hygiene program will require additional faculty, instructional materials, and equipment costs. The College desires to offset the startup and ongoing costs of this program with a combination of grants, college investment, and additional fees charged to students.

The College is proposing additional fees of \$1,600 a term, for a total of \$9,600 specific to this degree program. This fee will be in addition to standard tuition and fees charged to students.