The New York State licensed certified Dental Assistant is a vital member of the dental health-care team. Primarily trained to assist the dentist during chairside procedures, a licensed dental assistant may also perform a variety of supportive services under direct supervision of the dentist.

For gainful employment information, please visit this link: elinks.ecc.edu/gainfulemployment/dentalassisting/Gedt.html
and Safety Exam, the DANB Infection Control Exam, the New York Professional Dental Assisting Exam, and current certification for BLS Healthcare Provider. Graduates are encouraged to seek national board certification, join their local, state and national dental assisting organizations, and volunteer in community dental health projects.

Scholarships/Awards
American Dental Assistants Association
Eighth District Dental Society
Erie County Dental Society
Western New York Dental Group

Special Admission Requirements/Prerequisites
Eligibility for the Dental Assisting Certificate Program is based upon the following criteria:

• high school graduates with a minimum cumulative average of 88 percent;
• college students/transfer students with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or above;
• transfer credits or general education credits required for the dental assisting curriculum must have a grade of “C” or above;
• English and math placement tests must be at the EN 110 or MT 013 levels; and
• developmental courses indicated by placement tests must be completed prior to admission to DS courses.

Department Notes
• Entrance into the Dental Assisting Program occurs only in the Fall semester and courses must be taken in the prescribed sequence.
• Preference is given to applicants who have already completed EN 110 and BI 147.
• A current physical exam and immunization report is required prior to the start of clinical externship.
• Hepatitis B immunization is strongly recommended for the dental assisting profession.
• Students must participate in clinical practice activities as a clinician and as a patient.
• Students are responsible for providing transportation to off-campus assignments.
• Membership in the American Dental Assistants Association and malpractice insurance is required.
• Students must purchase a lab coat, clinical uniforms and shoes, protective eyewear, books, and any necessary school supplies.
• “C-” is the minimum passing grade in all required courses in the Dental Assisting curriculum.
• Students must successfully complete all first semester courses prior to admission to the second semester.

Program Competencies
Upon graduation with a certificate in Dental Assisting, the graduate will be able to:

• demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills;
• exhibit sensitivity to cultural diversity and patients with special needs;
• demonstrate a basic understanding of body structures and functions;
• identify normal and pathological conditions of the oral cavity;
• discuss the effects of diet and nutrition on oral health;
• describe the characteristics of microorganisms and relationship to the disease process;
• prevent disease transmission through proper asepsis, disinfection and sterilization;
• follow standards and guidelines of occupational safety for dental office personnel;
• prepare and maintain dental equipment, instruments and treatment rooms;
• assist with the collection and recording of diagnostic data;
• expose, process and evaluate intraoral and extraoral radiographs;
• prepare for and assist with general dentistry and specialty procedures;
• implement four-handed dentistry concepts during all treatment phases;
• select, prepare and manipulate restorative dental materials;
• respond to and assist with chair-side dental and medical emergencies;
• demonstrate basic knowledge of pharmacology as it relates to dentistry;
• perform general laboratory procedures and prosthetic fabrications;
• perform basic administrative duties of a dental business office assistant;
• identify and apply concepts of risk management in professional practice; and
• maintain the professional and ethical standards of the ADAA Code of Ethics.

CURRICULUM
Total Degree Credits: 31.5

First Semester (Fall)
DS 100 Dental Assisting I (4 cr)
DS 110 Dental Biomedical Sciences (2 cr)
DS 120 Dental Sciences (4 cr)
DS 130 Dental Laboratory Procedures (1.5 cr)
DS 160 Dental Practice Management (2 cr)
BI 147 Survey Anatomy and Physiology (3 cr)
DH 120 Dental Radiography I (1 cr)
DH 121 Lab for DH 120 (1 cr)

Second Semester (Spring)
DH 180 Dental Radiography II (1 cr)
DH 181 Lab for DH 180 (1 cr)
DH 220 Dental Materials (2 cr)
DS 150 Dental Assisting II (4 cr)
DS 170 Dental Assisting Externship (3 cr)
EG 022 Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office (1 cr)
EN 110 College Composition (3 cr)