

HIGHER CERTIFICATE: DENTAL ASSISTING



FACULTY OF
HEALTH
SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF
DENTAL
SCIENCES

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

Higher Certificate in Dental Assisting

NQF Level: 5

SAQA ID: 97879

Qualification Code: HCDNAI

Location: ML Sultan Campus (Block A)

Description of the Programme

Dental assistants require a variety of diverse skills ranging from secretarial to clinical skills. They are involved in everything from reception duties to data capturing, dealing with patients and medical aid schemes, however their primary task is assisting the dentist with dental procedure be it surgical, impression taking for dentures, orthodontics, fillings or extractions. One of the most important functions of a Dental Assistant is infection control, ensuring the proper sterilization of instruments and ultimately making sure that all the necessary precautions have been taken to ensure the patient, dental assistant and dentist are protected.

Students will register for a Higher Certificate in Dental Assisting, which will be run over two semesters. They will also be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as student dental assistants.

Personal Qualities Required

- Good people skills
- Well organized and an eye for detail
- An ability to concentrate and keep pace with very precise work
- Willingness to work under instruction
- Punctuality
- Ability to work under pressure

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities exist in South Africa at present. Employment opportunities exist for dental assistants in private practice, in public hospitals as well as in the medical division of the defence force, medical aid companies, sales representatives for dental supply companies and dental laboratories. Experienced dental assistants also readily find employment internationally.

Explanation of Points scale:

| SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| SYMBOL | HIGHER GRADE | STANDARD GRADE |
| A | 8 | 6 |
| B | 7 | 5 |
| C | 6 | 4 |
| D | 5 | 3 |
| E | 4 | 2 |
| F | 3 | 1 |

| NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|
| % | LEVEL | POINTS |
| 90-100 | 7 | 8 |
| 80-89% | 7 | 7 |
| 70-79% | 6 | 6 |
| 60-69% | 5 | 5 |
| 50-59% | 4 | 4 |
| 40-49% | 3 | 3 |
| 30-39% | 2 | 2 |
| 20-29% | 1 | 1 |

Entry Requirements (HC in Dental Assisting)

| NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 JANUARY 200*) | | SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009) | | | NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV) | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----|----|--|------|
| NSC DEGREE ENTRY | | SC WITH MATRIC EXEMPTION | | | NCV LEVEL 4 | |
| Compulsory Subjects | NSC Rating Code | Compulsory Subjects | HG | SG | Compulsory Subjects | Mark |
| English | 3 | English | E | C | English | 60% |
| Mathematics OR | 3 | Mathematics | E | C | Mathematics OR | 60% |
| Mathematics Literacy | 5 | Physical Science OR | E | C | Mathematics Literacy | 70% |
| Physical Science OR | 3 | Biology | E | C | Physical Science OR | 60% |
| Life Science | 3 | | | | Life Science | 60% |
| And TWO additional 20 credit subjects (not more than one language) | 3 | And TWO additional subjects | E | C | And any TWO subjects | 60% |
| Additional Entry Requirements: Applicants will have to present themselves for interviews and entrance tests Interviews will be conducted early in November. Final selection of students will be made after the interviews have been completed Applicants are generally selected after interview NB: Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee admission NB: Please check CAO and DUT website regularly for updates | | | | | | |

OR

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS BASED UPON WORK EXPERIENCE, AGE AND MATURITY

For admission to entry level diploma and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
 - three years' appropriate work experience; and/or capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AI) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person is standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity **is approved prior to registration**.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications to the relevant department at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

Please Note: DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

First Year Curriculum (HC in Dental Assisting)

| Name of Module | Module Code | HEQSF Level | SAQA Credits | 2025 Fees |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Semester One | | | | |
| Dental Assisting Practical IA | DAPA10I | 5 | 12 | R2700.00 |
| Dental Assisting Theory IA | DATA10I | 5 | 16 | R2770.00 |
| Dental Practice Management IA | DNPM10I | 5 | 12 | R7650.00 |
| Oral Anatomy & Pathology IA | OAPA10I | 5 | 12 | R3250.00 |
| Pharmacology for Dental Assisting | PHDA10I | 5 | 8 | R1200.00 |
| Total | | | | R17 570.00 |

| Semester Tw7 | | | | |
|---|---------|---|------------|-------------------|
| Dental Assisting Practical IB | DAPB101 | 5 | 12 | R2700.00 |
| Dental Assisting Theory IB | DATB101 | 5 | 16 | R2770.00 |
| Oral Anatomy & Pathology IB | OAPB101 | 5 | 12 | R3250.00 |
| Dental Assisting Clinical Practice | DACPI01 | 5 | 16 | R1230.00 |
| Cornerstone | CSTN101 | 5 | 12 | R3910.00 |
| Total | | | | R13 860.00 |
| Total Credits for Semester One & Two | | | 128 | |

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

For CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06

Dalbridge

4014

Tel: (031) 268 4444

Fax: (031) 268 4422

Closing Date for Applications: 30 September 2025

CAO Code: H. Cert – **DUDHDA**

For Further Information

Department of Dental Sciences

Durban University of Technology

P.O. Box 1334

DURBAN

4000

Tel: (031) 373 5356 / 5287 / 5800

Fax: (031) 373 6401

Financial Aid:

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above.

Please note that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)3732931/2557/2054.

This leaflet is for information purposes only and is not binding on the Durban University of Technology