

Dental Assistant Program

Additional Admissions Requirements

Students interested in the Dental Assistant program must complete the admission requirements outlined below by the acceptance deadline. Applicants must submit both the [Iowa Western application](#) for admission and the [new for fall 2025 Dental Assistant application](#). If the program does not fill by the deadline, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached.

The Dental Assistant Program is accredited by the [Commission on Dental Accreditation \(CODA\)](#), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. This accreditation ensures that the program curriculum and techniques reflect the latest industry standards. For inquiries, contact [the Commission on Dental Accreditation](#):

Address: 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: 800-232-6108

Compliance and Safety Standards

We adhere to CDC and OSHA guidelines to ensure safety and compliance in both classroom and clinical settings. A copy of the Infection Control Policy is available in the Division Office.

Program Locations, Start Dates, and Deadlines:

Location	Semester Program Begins	Acceptance Deadline	Program Capacity
Council Bluffs	Fall (August)	January 31	24

Important: Apply to Iowa Western for your intended start term and submit the [new for fall 2025 Dental Assistant application](#) once all requirements are met. Ensure all documents are submitted and your application reflects the correct start term, year, and location.

Section 1: College Admission Requirements

To apply for Iowa Western, complete the following steps:

- **Submit an Application:**
 - Apply online at www.iwcc.edu.
 - There is no application fee.
 - Select your preferred location and start term when completing the application. Refer to the chart provided for options.
- **Request Transcripts:**
 - Have your final, official high school transcript, HiSET/GED transcript, or college transcript sent to Iowa Western. For more details on submitting official transcripts, please refer to item 2 on the [Admissions page](#).
- **Optional Test Scores:**
 - Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT) are not required for admission.
 - If available, submit your most recent scores to help advisors determine placement in math and English courses.

Note: Completing these steps ensures acceptance to Iowa Western as a General Studies AS student with a secondary program of "Prep Dental Assistant." Students can then enroll in general education courses required for the Dental Assistant program. For help with registration or admissions requirements, contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3277.

Section 2: Dental Assistant Program Admissions Requirements

To apply for the Dental Assistant program, complete the following steps:

- 1. Observation Requirement:**
 - Complete eight hours of observation with a Dental Assistant or Dentist and submit the Dental Assistant Program Observation Form to Admissions. *Observation hours must be completed within 12 months of the priority deadline.*
- 2. Complete Prerequisite Courses**
 - Achieve a grade of “C” or higher in each of the following courses:
 - HSC-128: Anatomy & Physiology for Allied Health
 - ENG-105: Composition I **OR** ENG-110: Writing for the Workplace
- 3. New for fall 2025 Submit a Dental Assistant Application:**
 - Complete the [Dental Assistant application](#), ensuring all required attachments are included. Missing items will result in the application being returned for correction.

Note: Ensure all requirements are met before submitting the [Dental Assistant application](#). For assistance, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@iwcc.edu or 712-325-3277.

Section 3: Acceptance Process

- 1. Eligibility and Application Review:**
 - Complete the College Admissions Requirements (Section 1) and the Dental Assistant Program Admissions Requirements (Section 2), including the *new for fall 2025* [Dental Assistant application](#).
 - Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.
- 2. Priority Deadlines:**
 - Acceptance begins after the listed priority deadline:
 - **Fall Semester:** January 31
 - Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis after these dates until the program is full.
- 3. Selection Process:**
 - If the number of eligible applicants exceeds program capacity, priority is given to:
 - Students with the earliest admission file completion date.
 - *Tiebreaker:* Students with the highest number of prerequisite courses completed at Iowa Western.
- 4. Notification:**
 - Students accepted into the program or placed on the alternate list will be notified via email approximately two weeks after the priority deadline.
 - Applications missing required items or containing errors will be returned with notes for correction.

Section 4: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are there additional requirements?

The program is academically demanding and prepares students for success in dental healthcare. These requirements ensure you are ready for the challenges of the program.

2. How long does it take to complete the program requirements?

Most students finish the prerequisite courses and observation hours in one semester, depending on their academic background.

3. What happens if I don't meet the priority deadline?



If the program is not full after the priority deadline, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached.

4. Is there a separate application for the Dental Assistant program?

Yes. Beginning in fall 2025, students must complete the [Dental Assistant application](#) after meeting all required admissions steps. Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.

5. Can I reapply if I don't complete the requirements in time?

Yes. Beginning in **fall 2025**, you will need to submit a new [Dental Assistant application](#) for your preferred semester once it opens.

6. How will I know if I get accepted?

Accepted students will receive an email approximately two to four weeks after the priority deadline. If the program doesn't fill during priority acceptance, we will continue accepting qualified students until capacity is reached or the semester is about to begin.

*Admissions Requirements are subject to change. Contact the Admissions Office with questions.

Non-Discrimination Clause:

Iowa Western is committed to providing an inclusive environment. Please review our [Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination](#) for the latest information.

Admissions Contact Information:

Admissions Office:

- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Phone: 712-325-3277
- Email: admissions@iwcc.edu

Dental Assistant Program - Observation Form for Prospective Students

To be completed by the student and signed by the participating Dentist or Dental Assistant.

Student name (print or type): _____ Date of Birth: _____

The purpose of the observation is to expose applicants to a wide-variety of procedures performed in a dental practice setting. Applicants are required to observe a minimum of **8 hours** with a Dental Assistant or Dentist. After completing the observation hours this form must signed by the supervising Dental Assistant or Dentist, and the completed form must be submitted to the Admissions Office by the priority deadline.

Observation Log

Applicants are required to document the times and dates of their observation hours using the log below.

Date	Time In	Time Out	Hours
Total Observation Hours			

Registered Dental Assistant or Dentist Certification

This section must be completed by the supervising Dental Assistant or Dentist

By signing below, I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is true and accurate.

Signature(s) of Dental Assistant or Dentist: _____

Printed Name(s) of Dental Assistant or Dentist: _____

Name of Practice or Facility: _____

Address of Practice or Facility: _____

Phone Number of Practice or Facility: _____

Applicant Certification

By signing below, I hereby certify that all information on this form is true and correct.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____



We prefer you scan your documents into a PDF/Word file and submit them (admissions@iwcc.edu). There are many free scanning apps that can be downloaded on most smartphones. If submitting a picture of a document it must meet the following guidelines:

- Pictures may not be at an angle. Pictures of documents must be taken straight on
- Pictures may not cut off any part of the document
- No part of the picture may contain any shadow or glare
- The document must be easily readable

***If your picture does not meet the criteria above you will be required to resubmit your document.
