Expanded Duty Dental Assisting FAQ's

- **How long is the dental assisting program?**
  - The Expanded Duty Dental Assisting Program is a one year (three semesters) diploma program. Acceptance into the clinical portion of the program requires pre-requisite classes.
- **When does the dental assisting program start?**
  - Students are admitted during the Fall semester only.
- **Can dental assisting classes be taken online?**
  - Due to the Clinical component, hands-on training skills, and simulated lab instruction, the majority of the dental assisting classes are not offered online. However, there are 1-2 courses each semester that do have an online and/or hybrid component. Many pre-requisite and general education courses are offered in an online format.
- **Are dental assisting classes offered at night?**
  - There are no evening classes offered for the dental assisting program. Dental assisting classes are held during the daytime.
- **How much does the dental assisting program cost?**
  - The cost varies depending on the residence of a student, and the number of required courses that a student will be transferring to Tri-County Technical College (TCTC). The total number of credit hours for the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting Program is 50. Tuition information can be found here: https://www.tctc.edu/paying-for-college/calculating-tuition-and-fees/tuition-for-fall-2020-summer-2021/
- **What additional costs will be incurred for dental assisting students?**
  - Additional fees are charged to purchase materials and supplies such as background check, drug screen, liability insurance, course packet, program entrance, books, uniforms, lab supplies, dental typodont kit and certification exams.
- **Is there a waitlist for acceptance into the dental assisting program?**
  - Due to a large number of applicants and limited capacity, there is the possibility of a waitlist for the dental assisting program. The program accepts 24 students for each fall cohort. Acceptance is currently based on order of application and meeting program requirements. There is no competitive entry at this time.
- **Can I choose locations for clinical dental office rotations?**
  - Clinicals take place during the spring semester and summer term. You are able to choose locations from a provided list of affiliated dental practices. The Program Director will schedule all clinical rotations. You will be required to complete clinicals in a variety of dental offices and specialties to earn a minimum of 300 hours by graduation.

- **What certifications will I earn during the dental assisting program?**
  - Graduates from the dental assisting program are x-ray certified in the state of SC by completion of the dental radiography course during the spring semester. The student's diploma is proof of this certification. Students will take (3) Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exams prior to graduation. The DANB Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) Exam and the DANB Infection Control (ICE) Exam are taken together between the end of the spring semester and start of the summer term. The DANB General Chairside (GC) exam is taken immediately prior to graduation. DANB exams will be taken in Greenville at Pearson Professional Center and are scheduled by the Program Director. Certification exam fees are included as course fees during the spring semester and summer term. Students also complete a Nitrous Oxide Monitoring Course during the summer term and

submit an application to the state board of dentistry for testing/certification through their testing provider.