



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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New Program Proposal

The following must be submitted to complete a new program request:

Submission Checklist:

- ☒ New Program Proposal
- ☐ Business Plan (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>)
- ☐ Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Plan (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>)

Primary Contact Information

Institution: **Northeast Alabama Community College**
Contact: **Dr. Myrna Williamson**
Title: **Dean of Healthcare Programs**
Email: **williamsonm@nacc.edu**
Telephone: **256-638-4418, Ext. 2299**

Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 5/14/2026
Award Level: **Associate's Degree**
Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): **AAS**
Field of Study/Program Title: **Dental Assisting**
CIP Code (6-digit): **51:0601**

Administration of the Program

Name of Dean: **Dr. Myrna Williamson**
Name of College/School: **Northeast Alabama Community College**
Name of Chairperson: **TBA**
Name of Department/Division: **Health Science**

Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: **08/01/2027** Click or tap to enter a date.
Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: **9/9/2026**
Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: **9/11/2026**
SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): **Approval**
Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):
SACSCOC review in Fall 2026



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Program Description

A. Concise Program Summary (one paragraph) to be included in ACHE Agenda:

The Dental Assisting program will prepare individuals to provide patient care, take dental radiographs (x-ray photographs), prepare patients and equipment for dental procedures, and discharge office administrative functions under the supervision of dentists and dental hygienists. The program includes instruction in medical record-keeping, general office duties, reception and patient intake, scheduling, equipment maintenance and sterilization, basic radiography, pre-and-post operative patient care and instruction, chairside assisting, taking tooth and mouth impressions, and supervised practice.

B. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List three (3) to five (5) strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. **High-Demand Career Path** – Dental Assisting is a high-demand healthcare profession within the State of Alabama and particularly within the Northeast Alabama Community College service area. Local dental professionals have expressed strong support for the development of this program to address workforce needs and strengthen the regional dental care workforce.

2. **Expanded Educational Opportunities** – The proposed Dental Assisting program will expand the College's Allied Health offerings and provide an additional career pathway for students interested in healthcare professions. This program will increase access to career-focused education for individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enter the healthcare field.

3. **Support for Rural Healthcare Initiatives** – Expanding Dental Assisting education aligns with statewide priorities to improve access to healthcare services in rural communities. By preparing qualified dental assistants, the program will help strengthen the local dental care delivery system and improve access to essential oral health services in underserved areas.

4. **Strong Workforce Alignment** – The program is designed to align with current workforce demands and industry expectations. Collaboration with local dental providers will help ensure that graduates are prepared with the skills and competencies needed to successfully enter the workforce upon completion of the program.

5. **Efficient Use of Existing Institutional Resources** – The College has an established Allied Health division with experienced faculty, administrative support, and instructional resources that will support the implementation and sustainability of the Dental Assisting



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program. This existing foundation allows the program to be developed efficiently while maintaining high educational standards.

C. External Support (Recommended)

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

1. Thompson & Thorne, DMD, PC, Henagar, AL
2. Holland Family Dentistry, Stevenson, AL
3. Scottsboro Family and General Dentistry, PC, Scottsboro, AL

D. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Apply foundational knowledge of dental sciences, including oral anatomy, head and neck structures, and basic biological principles relevant to dental care.
2. Demonstrate competency in chairside dental assisting procedures in accordance with accepted clinical standards.
3. Practice safe and effective infection control, radiation safety, and occupational safety procedures in the dental environment.
4. Expose, process, and mount diagnostic dental radiographs under the supervision of a licensed dentist.
5. Perform dental laboratory procedures, including impressions, study models, temporary restorations, and manipulation of dental materials.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in dental office administrative functions, including patient records management, scheduling, and financial procedures.
7. Communicate effectively and professionally with patients, dentists, and members of the healthcare team while demonstrating ethical and patient-centered care.



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E. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
51:0601	Dental Assisting	Gadsden State	Geographic Location
51:0601	Dental Assisting	Calhoun CC	Geographic Location
51:0601	Dental Assisting	Wallace, Hanceville	Geographic Location
51:0601	Dental Assisting	Coastal AL CC	Geographic Location
51:0601	Dental Assisting	Trenholm	Geographic Location

F. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

Nearly all new programs have some relationship to existing offerings through shared courses, faculty, facilities, etc. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If **yes**, please describe these relationships including whether or not the program will replace or compete with existing offerings: (**Note:** If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.)

If **not**, please describe how the institution plans to support a program unrelated to existing offerings.

Although the proposed Dental Assisting program does not share dental-specific courses with any current offerings, the College has the institutional resources necessary to support the program. The College maintains a well-established Allied Health division that provides experienced faculty leadership, administrative support, and instructional infrastructure to facilitate program development and ongoing operation. In addition, the general education courses required for the Dental Assisting curriculum are already offered as part of other allied health and degree programs, ensuring that these components of the curriculum are fully supported. The College will also utilize existing academic support services, advising, and student resources to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of the program.

G. Collaboration

Have any collaborations **within your institution** (i.e., research centers, across academic divisions, etc.) been explored? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If **yes**, provide a brief explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:



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Have collaborations with **other institutions or external entities** (i.e., local business, industries, etc.) been explored? Yes ☒ No ☐

If **yes**, provide a brief explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:

The college has actively explored and established collaborations with local dental practices to support the proposed Dental Assisting Program. Several community dentists and dental offices have agreed to partner with the college by providing practicum opportunities for students. These clinical experiences will allow students to apply the technical skills learned in the classroom and skills laboratory within a professional dental practice environment. The collaborations will enhance student learning, provide exposure to daily dental office operations, and help ensure students gain practical experience necessary for workforce readiness.

H. Programmatic Accreditation

Select the appropriate program accreditor from the drop-down menu below:

Commission on Dental Accreditation American Dental Association (CODA)

Provide a detailed timeline for gaining accreditation (i.e., when will full candidacy be reached?):

Initial accreditation with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) will be initiated upon the hire of a program director which is anticipated to be in Spring/Summer 2027.

I. Professional Licensure

Will the program be considered a Professional Licensure Program based on the following definition: Yes ☐ No ☒

Professional Licensure Program: As defined in federal regulations, an instructional program that is designed to meet educational requirements for a specific professional license or certification that is required for employment in an occupation or is advertised as meeting such requirements.

If **yes**, please explain: **The Dental Assisting Program is designed to prepare graduates for professional certification through the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). The curriculum follows the educational standards established by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and provides students with the knowledge and clinical competencies necessary to sit for the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination. This credential is nationally recognized and is often required or preferred by employers for dental assisting positions.**

Select the appropriate licensure body from the table below:

Select the appropriate license from the table below:

Choose an item.



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In Alabama, Dental Assistants do not require a state license to practice general chairside assisting; however, registration with the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama (BDEA) is required for those performing expanded duties such as radiography or coronal polishing. Graduates seeking national certification are eligible to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination, which is widely recognized by employers.

J. Professional Certification

Will students earn industry certifications while completing the degree or be prepared for industry certifications upon graduation? Yes ☒ No ☐

If **yes**, please explain: **Students in the Dental Assisting Program are prepared to earn the nationally recognized Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential through the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) upon graduation, and may also be eligible for state-required expanded function certifications as applicable.**

K. Admissions

Provide any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level. Include prerequisites, prior degrees earned, etc.

1. **Have unconditional admission to the College and be an active student in good standing (minimum, cumulative 2.0 GPA).**
2. **Eligibility for ENG 101, if not already completed.**
3. **Submit official transcripts from all colleges/schools attended, including high school, to the registrar or admissions office by the application deadline**
4. **Submit a completed Dental Assisting Program application by stated deadline.**
5. **Meet Essential Eligibility Criteria required for the Dental Assisting Program.**
6. **Submit required form for observation of a dental assistant completing duties at a dental office.**

Admission to the Dental Assisting program is competitive and the number of students accepted is limited. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to the admission requirements described and verify all required documentation has been received by published deadline. Students should contact a Dental Assisting advisor for clarification if needed.

There is a class size limit of 12 students. If needed, prospective students are selected for program admission using a points system in which applicants are rank ordered using the metrics below:

1. **Three points for an A, 2 points for a B, and 1 point for a C in MTH 100 or higher, ENG 101, and BIO 201.**
2. **One point for a C or higher in CIS 146, PSY 200, SPH 106 or 107, and a humanities/fine arts elective.**



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L. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) of the program as defined in policy (i.e., in-person, online, hybrid). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

Instructional delivery will include traditional, in-person, hybrid, and online formats. Area V coursework will be primarily in-person with laboratory and clinical requirements being met through applied learning activities. Dental assisting skills will be evaluated through competency-based assessments conducted in the skills laboratory. Students will be required to demonstrate proficiency and competency in essential dental assisting skills prior to participating in clinical practicum experiences.

Can students complete the entire degree program through distance education (100% online) based on the following definition? Yes ☐ No ☒

Distance Education: An academic program for which required instructional activities can be completed entirely through distance education modalities. A distance education program may have in-person requirements that are non-instructional (e.g., orientation, practicum).

M. Instructional Site(s)

Provide the planned location(s) where the program will be delivered (i.e., main campus, satellite campus, off-campus site.) If the program will be offered at an off-campus site, provide the existing site name or submit an **Off-Campus Site Request** if new.

Main campus, Rainsville, AL.

Will more than 50% of this program be offered at an off-campus site(s) Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, which sites?

N. Industry Need

Using the federal **Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System**, indicates the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOC codes can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

SOC 1 (required): **31-9091.00**

SOC 2 (optional): **29-1292.00**

SOC 3 (optional): **51:9081.00**

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).



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Dental Assisting is identified as a bright-outlook career field statewide according to O*NET OnLine (2026), with projected 13% employment growth in Alabama over the next decade. Data from the Alabama Department of Labor and the 2025 Statewide In-Demand Occupations report show an average of 610 annual job openings statewide, with approximately 3,850 individuals currently employed in the field.

According to labor market data from Lightcast, there were 360 unique job postings between January 2025 and February 2026 from 86 employers in the region, demonstrating strong demand for dental assistants. Regional dental healthcare providers have expressed support for the program and indicated a willingness to hire program graduates.

The proposed Dental Assisting program will expand educational opportunities in the region and prepare students with the knowledge and technical skills needed to meet current and emerging workforce demands in dental healthcare.

O. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the SOC occupations selected above.

No additional training, beyond the AAS degree program is required for entry level employment as a Dental Assistant.

P. Student Demand

Please explain how you projected the student enrollment numbers in the **Business Plan, Lines 24-27** and provide evidence to substantiate student demand (i.e., surveys, enrollments in related courses, etc.).

In an online survey of high school students, the college requested response to questions relating to interest in pursuing post-secondary degrees in high demand career fields. Two hundred sixty-five students responded to the survey with 102 students indicating interest in pursuing careers in healthcare. NACC partners with secondary CTE centers in Jackson and DeKalb counties by offering onsite dual enrollment courses in health science and serving over 300 high school students annually. Each center is committed to the expansion of healthcare instruction and will facilitate prerequisite coursework via dual enrollment that leads to entry into the Dental Assisting program and other healthcare programs.

Considering the response from high school students and the commitment of local dental healthcare agencies to hire graduates from the dental assisting program, the College is confident that adding Dental Assisting as a degree program and certificate option will not only be successful but will also become a destination for many students seeking careers in the healthcare industry.



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Program Resources and Expenses

A. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Part-Time Faculty	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Administration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Support Staff	N/A	N/A	N/A
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty	1		
	Part-Time Faculty	1		
	Administration	1		
	Support Staff			
		Personnel Total		

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review:

Upon full approval of the Dental Assisting program implementation, Northeast Alabama Community College will post position announcements to seek qualified candidates to fill necessary instructional and administrative positions.

Note: Include *any new funds* designated for compensation costs (faculty, administration, and/or support staff to be hired) in the **Business Plan, Line 7 - Personnel Salaries and Benefits**. Current personnel salary/benefits *should not be included* in the Business Plan.



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B. Proposed Faculty Roster*

Complete the following **Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

***Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
N/A			
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
FT	Fall 2027 DAT 100 Introduction to Dental Assisting (2) (UN) DAT 102 Dental Materials (3) (UN) DAT 103 Dental Anatomy and Physiology (3) (UN) DAT 104 Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting (2) (UN) Spring 2028 DAT 112 – Dental Radiology (3) (UN) DAT 113 – Dental Health Education (2) (UN) Summer 2028 DAT 114 Dental Office Administration (4) (UN) DAT 123 Dental Assisting Seminar (4) (UN)	Requirements: Bachelor's degree and demonstrated competencies in discipline	IP
PT	Fall 2027 DAT 101 Pre-Clinical Procedures I (3) (UN) Spring 2028 DAT 111 – Clinical Practice I (5) (UN) DAT 116 – Pre-Clinical Procedures II (3) (UN) Summer 2028 DAT 122 Clinical Practice II (4) (UN)	Requirements: Bachelor's degree and demonstrated competencies in discipline	IP

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment
Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site



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C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program? Yes ☒ No ☐

Dental chairs & equipment
Radiology Equipment
Materials and Supplies for dental assisting

If **yes**, list the special equipment and include all special equipment costs in the **Business Plan, Line 8**:

D. Facilities

Will new facilities or renovations to existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes ☒ No ☐

Building renovation in the health education building.

If **yes**, describe the new facilities or renovations and include all *new* facilities and/or *renovation* costs in the **Business Plan, Line 9**:

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, provide the number of assistantships to be offered and include all *new* costs for assistantships in the **Business Plan, Line 10**.

Explain the function of the Assistantships (i.e., teaching, research, etc.)?:

F. Library

Will any **additional** library resources be purchased to support the program? Yes ☒ No ☐

The Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center's collection currently contains over 50,000 print books and over 250,000 electronic books. The LRC already owns or licenses items related to dental assisting. Topics include dental anatomy, oral health care, and medical terminology. Should the dental assisting program be approved, additional books and eBooks related to dental assisting would be purchased for the collection.



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Examples of discipline-specific books and eBooks to support the Dental Assisting program in the LRC collection include:

Source Type	Publication Name
eBook	ADA Dental Drug Handbook
eBook	Block's Disinfection, Sterilization and Preservation
Print Book	Community Oral Health Practice for the Dental Hygienist
Print Book	Darby's Comprehensive Review of Dental Hygiene
eBook	Dental Statistics Made Easy
eBook	Evidence-Based Dentistry for the Dental Hygienist
eBook	How to Use Evidence-Based Dental Practices to Improve Clinical Decision Making
eBook	Microinvasive Dentistry-Clinical Strategies and Tools
eBook	Neuroscience for Dentistry

If **yes**, briefly describe new resources to be purchased and include the cost of new library resources in the **Business Plan, Line 11**:

In addition to print and electronic books, NACC students and faculty have access to academic journals, many of which are available via the LRC's numerous databases. These databases include EBSCO's *Associates Program's Source Plus*, which is a database designed to meet the needs of two-year community and technical students, as well as *Nursing Reference Center Plus*, which is a database that contains patient education sheets and evidence-based care sheets on topics such as fluoride and dental crowns. In addition, students and faculty have access to more than 50 databases on the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), several of which contain discipline-specific learning resources to support the Dental Assisting program.

The following are examples of discipline-specific publications:

Source Type	Publication Name
Academic Journal	Contemporary Clinical Dentistry
Academic Journal	Dental Assistant
Academic Journal	Dental Research Journal
Academic Journal	Imaging Science in Dentistry
Academic Journal	Journal of Conservative Dentistry



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Academic Journal	Journal of Dental Biomechanics
Academic Journal	Journal of Dental Hygiene
Academic Journal	Journal of Dental Research, Dental Clinics, Dental Prospects
Academic Journal	Journal of Periodontal and Implant Science
Academic Journal	Journal of Oral Review and Research
Academic Journal	Primary Dental Journal

G. Accreditation Expenses

If programmatic accreditation was indicated above, please include all accreditation costs in the **Business Plan, Line 12** and itemize and explain below:

Accreditation fees are estimated at \$19,300.00 for initial application for accreditation in years 1 and 2. Thereafter, costs to maintain accreditation is estimated at \$2,740.00 annually.

H. Other Costs

Please include all other costs incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment, in the **Business Plan, Line 13** and explain below:

II. Program Revenue and Funding

A. Tuition Revenue: Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **Business Plan, Line 17**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Note: Tuition Revenue should be proportional to total enrollment.

Tuition revenue was calculated based on a cohort of 8 students admitted annually to the program. Tuition was calculated using the college's cost per credit hour rate multiplied by the number of credit hours required each academic year.

During the program, each student will complete 48 credit hours, resulting in an estimated tuition cost of \$9,212.00 per student. Multiplied by 8 students, the projected first-year tuition revenue is \$74,496.00.

The tuition revenue projections were based on current in-state tuition rates and assume consistent enrollment of 8 students per cohort. Non-resident tuition differentials were not factored into the calculations, as the projections were developed using the standard resident tuition rate for planning purposes.



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- B. External Funding:** Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If **yes**, please include all external funding in the **Business Plan, Line 18** and explain specific sources and funding below:

- C. Reallocations:** For each year will tuition revenue and/or external funding cover projected expenses? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

If **not**, budget reallocation may be required. Please include all reallocations in the **Business Plan, Line 19** and describe below how your institution will cover any shortfalls in any given year.

1	ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM BUSINESS PLAN								
2	INSTITUTION:	Northeast Alabama Community College							
3	PROGRAM NAME:	Dental Assisting					CIP CODE:	51:0601	
4	SELECT LEVEL:	UNDERGRADUATE (ASSOCIATE)							
5	ESTIMATED *NEW* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
6		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
7	PERSONNEL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$875,000
8	EQUIPMENT	\$475,000		\$5,000		\$5,000		\$5,000	\$490,000
9	FACILITIES	\$710,220							\$710,220
10	ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS								\$0
11	LIBRARY								\$0
12	ACCREDITATION	\$19,300		\$2,740	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$33,000
13	OTHER COSTS								\$0
14	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,329,520	\$125,000	\$132,740	\$127,740	\$132,740	\$127,740	\$132,740	\$2,108,220
15	*NEW* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
16		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
17	TUITION + FEES	\$72,168	\$142,008	\$142,008	\$142,008	\$142,008	\$142,008	\$142,008	\$924,216
18	EXTERNAL FUNDING	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$169,143	\$1,184,004
19	REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
20	TOTAL REVENUES	\$241,311	\$311,151	\$311,151	\$311,151	\$311,151	\$311,151	\$311,151	\$2,108,220
21	ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
22									
23		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
24	FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	No data reporting	12	24	24	24	24	24	22.00
25	PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT								0.00
26	TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		12	24	24	24	24	24	22.00
27	NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		12	12	12	12	12	12	12.00
28	Validation of Enrollment			NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	
29	DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
30	Note: Do not count Lead “0”s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.								
31		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
32	DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	No data reporting	8	8	8	8	8	8	8.00

Undergraduate Curriculum Plan

Undergraduate Curriculum Checklist:

1. Overview ☐
2. Components ☐
3. Options (as required) ☐

1. Undergraduate Overview

Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (N/A if not applicable).
The credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the Curriculum Components table.

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in General Education	19
Credit hours required in Program Courses & Required Electives	42
Credit hours in Program Options (concentrations/specializations/tracks)	
Credit hours in Free Electives	
Credit hours in required Capstone/Internship/Practicum	
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:	61

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:	
Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:	5
Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:	N/A

Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards?:	YES	NO
	☐	☐

If **yes**, please explain (i.e., number of hours required, etc.):

	YES	NO
Does the program include any concentrations/ tracks/ options?	☐	☐

If **yes**, please explain (i.e., define):

2. Undergraduate Components

Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with "Y" in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y" in the WBL column.

Insert Additional Rows as Needed				
Institution:	Northeast Alabama Community College			
Program Name:	Dental Assisting			
Program Level:	UNDERGRADUATE (ASSOCIATE)			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses		19		
ENG 101	English Composition	3		
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3		
PSY 200	General Psychology	3		
MTH 100 or Higher	Intermediate College Algebra	3		
SPH 106 or 107	Fundamentals of Oral Communication/Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3		
BIO 201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
Program Courses and Required Electives		42		
CIS 146	Computer Applications	3		
DAT 100	Introduction to Dental Assisting	2	Y	
DAT 101	Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3	Y	
DAT 102	Dental Materials	3	Y	
DAT 103	Dental Anatomy and Physiology	3	Y	
DAT 104	Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2	Y	
DAT 111	Clinical Practice I	5	Y	Y
DAT 112	Dental Radiology	3	Y	
DAT 113	Dental Health Education	2	Y	
DAT 114	Dental Office Administration	4	Y	
DAT 116	Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3	Y	Y
DAT 122	Clinical Practice II	4	Y	Y
DAT 123	Dental Assisting Seminar	4	Y	
DAT 124	Clinic Applied Infection Control & OSHA Standards	1	Y	
Program Options (enter total credit hours from all options below)				
Free Electives				
Capstone/Internship/Practicum				
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:		61		

Undergraduate Curriculum Plan

Undergraduate Curriculum Checklist:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Overview | ☐ |
| 2. Components | ☐ |
| 3. Options (as required) | ☐ |

1. Undergraduate Overview

Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (N/A if not applicable).
The credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the Curriculum Components table.

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in General Education	6
Credit hours required in Program Courses & Required Electives	39
Credit hours in Program Options (concentrations/specializations/tracks)	
Credit hours in Free Electives	
Credit hours in required Capstone/Internship/Practicum	
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:	45

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:	
Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:	3
Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:	N/A

Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards?:	YES	NO
	☐	☒

If **yes**, please explain (i.e., number of hours required, etc.):

	YES	NO
Does the program include any concentrations/ tracks/ options?	☐	☒

If **yes**, please explain (i.e., define):

2. Undergraduate Components

Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with "Y" in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y" in the WBL column.

Insert Additional Rows as Needed				
Institution:	Northeast Alabama Community College			
Program Name:	Dental Assisting			
Program Level:	UNDERGRADUATE (LONG CERTIFICATE (CER))			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses		6		
ENG 101	English Composition	3		
MTH 100 or Higher	Intermediate College Algebra	3		
Program Courses and Required Electives		39		
DAT 100	Introduction to Dental Assisting	2	Y	
DAT 101	Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3	Y	
DAT 102	Dental Materials	3	Y	
DAT 103	Dental Anatomy and Physiology	3	Y	
DAT 104	Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2	Y	
DAT 111	Clinical Practice I	5	Y	Y
DAT 112	Dental Radiology	3	Y	
DAT 113	Dental Health Education	2	Y	
DAT 114	Dental Office Administration	4	Y	
DAT 116	Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3	Y	Y
DAT 122	Clinical Practice II	4	Y	Y
DAT 123	Dental Assisting Seminar	4	Y	
DAT 124	Clinic Applied Infection Control & OSHA Standards	1	Y	
Program Options (enter total credit hours from all options below)				
Free Electives				
Capstone/Internship/Practicum				
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:				
		45		
3. Undergraduate Options				



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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New Program Proposal



THOMPSON & THORNE DMD, PC
FAMILY DENTISTRY

B. Scott Thompson, DMD
Leslie A. Thorne, DMD

18358 Broad Street, Henagar, AL 35978 • (256) 657-5141 *AFTER HOURS* • (256) 996-1316 *EMERGENCY ONLY*
thompsonandthorne.com

March 19, 2026

Dr. Myrna Williamson
Dean of Healthcare Programs
Northeast Alabama Community College
P. O. Box 519
Rainsville, AL 35986

Dear Dr. Williamson,

This letter is to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Dental Assisting Program at NACC.

As a general dentist in Northeast Alabama for many years, the need for well trained dental assistants is critical. A well trained dental assistant is an absolute blessing to patients and practitioners alike. I believe this program will be a valuable addition to NACC and the dental community in Northeast Alabama.

I fully support the development of the proposed dental assisting program at NACC.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Thorne, DMD
Thompson & Thorne, DMD
Henagar, AL 35978



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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New Program Proposal



HOLLAND
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Elizabeth B. Holland, DMD • Alex H. Holland, DMD

4/06/2026

Dr. Myrna Williamson

Dean of Healthcare Programs

Northeast Alabama Community College

PO Box 159

Rainsville, AL 35986

Dear Dr. Williamson,

I am a practicing general dentist in Stevenson, Alabama and I am writing to express my support for NACC developing a dental assisting program.

There is a definite demand for dental assistants across north Alabama and this program would give individuals the opportunity to have hands on experience before entering the workforce.

I would be interested in partnering with NACC to help students complete their supervised clinical hours.

I fully support the efforts of NACC to establish a dental assisting program, as I feel it would be beneficial to the healthcare workforce and for dental practices as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth B. Holland".

Elizabeth B. Holland, DMD

111 Shannon Drive • Stevenson, AL 35772 • 256.437.9060 • Fax 256.437.9061



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New Program Proposal

April 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Dental Assisting Program at Northeast Alabama Community College.

As a practicing dentist in Fort Payne, I can tell you firsthand that staffing—particularly finding and retaining qualified dental assistants—is one of the biggest challenges we face. This is not unique to our office; it is a consistent issue across practices in Northeast Alabama.

More broadly, Alabama is experiencing significant strain in its dental workforce. Nearly **67% of counties in the state are designated as dental health professional shortage areas**, and many rural communities continue to struggle with access to care. DeKalb and Jackson counties are designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, reflecting ongoing challenges with access to dental care in our region. At the same time, Alabama has one of the **lowest dentist-to-population ratios in the country**, with about 41.6 dentists per 100,000 residents compared to a national average closer to 60.

Even when dentists are present, the ability to deliver care is heavily dependent on trained support staff. Nationally, shortages of dental assistants and hygienists have already reduced dental practice capacity by an estimated **11%**, limiting how many patients can be seen and how efficiently care can be delivered.

In our region, this translates into longer wait times, difficulty expanding services, and in some cases, delayed or forgone care for patients.

A local dental assisting program would directly address this issue by creating a pipeline of trained, job-ready professionals who are more likely to stay and work in our community. It would also provide meaningful career opportunities for students in Northeast Alabama without requiring them to leave the area for training.

From a practical standpoint, this is one of the most impactful ways to improve access to dental care in our region.

I strongly support the development of this program and encourage its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celia M. Davenport, DMD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Davenport" being the most prominent part.

Dr. Celia Davenport, DMD



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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New Program Proposal

3/28/2026

Dr. Barrett (Bo) Bradford DMD

Scottsboro Family and General Dentistry PC

420 S Market St. Scottsboro, AL 35768

To Whom it May Concern:

As a life-long resident of Jackson County and Scottsboro City as well as practicing Dentist for over 13 years, I'm writing this letter to express my wholehearted endorsement for the proposed Dental Assisting Program at Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC). I intend to give it my full support and will encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Dentistry is a unique profession that requires ample esoteric knowledge to care for patients and provide them with a standard of care. Dental Assistants are crucial to any dental practitioners success and there is an increasing need for sufficiently trained assistants in our growing communities. By establishing a Dental Assisting Program at NACC, we can address the workforce shortage while also providing students with a valuable educational resource and a phenomenal career opportunity throughout our counties & cities.

Programs similar to these play can play a critical role in addressing the access to dental care that we all are experiencing. This program can also improve patient services and support local businesses throughout our region. I adamantly believe that this program will be a valuable addition to the healthcare education offerings & curriculum at NACC. This will not only benefit the students, it will also be a huge asset for our communities.

Furthermore, I fully support the implementation & development of the proposed Dental Assisting Program at Northeast Alabama Community College. Please, reach out if I can be of further assistance or any other references and information is needed to get this program going! Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Barrett (Bo) Bradford DMD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bo Bradford", with a stylized flourish at the end.