

**Please contact the following numbers for counselor's office hours: (915) 831-4636, (915) 831-4036, (915) 831-4155.**



**HEALTH CTE, CREDIT And CE, MATH & SCIENCE DIVISION**  
**Specialized Admissions Program Information Guide**  
**For**  
**DENTAL ASSISTING**  
**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS-DNTA)**  
**And**  
**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION (C2-DNTC)**  
**2026-2027 Catalog**

**PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Program Coordinator:** Lourdes Garduño, BIS, AAS., CDA, RDA.  
**Office Location:** RG Campus, Health Science Bldg. RM H-231

**Phone #:** 915-831-4048  
**E-mail:** [mgardun2@epcc.edu](mailto:mgardun2@epcc.edu)

**Clinical Coordinator:** Joy Pilant, BS, CDA, RDA, RDH.  
**Office Location:** RG Campus, RM H-230

**Phone #:** 915-831-4065  
**E-mail:** [jpilant@epcc.edu](mailto:jpilant@epcc.edu)

**Dean:** Souraya A. Hajjar, Ed.D., MPH, CHES, CHCO.  
**Office Location:** RG Campus, RM A-240

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**DNTA Program Counselors**

**Office Location:** RG Counseling Dept., 103 Montana Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup>. floor

**Guadalupe Marshall, Lead Counselor**  
**Phone #:** (915) 831-4040  
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**PROGRAM MAP**

Program Map provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements and Educational milestones. LINK: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Catalog/program-map?programID=1122>

If applicable, students qualifying for Specialized Admissions must satisfy all of the following: General Requirements, minimum set TSIA2 scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics. Once all requirements are completed, ranking points are derived from the highest TSIA2 scores and G.P.A. of ranking courses. Applicants who complete all ranking courses may be more competitive for admission into their program of choice.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants for specialized admissions must satisfy minimum criteria in order to be eligible for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- Prior to ranking, **the student must** submit all previous college/university official transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required). For online Transcripts Evaluation: [sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu](mailto:sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu) PDF with a password protection.
- Student must have a High School Diploma or GED. Submit official transcripts to:  
**El Paso Community College Admissions Office**  
**P.O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998.**
- Student must:
  1. Be approved to take credit academic courses by EPCC.
  2. Have successfully completed TSIA2 Assessment Tests.
  3. Complete an online Health Careers Orientation at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
  4. Submit Specialized Admissions Application form, pay \$ 10.00 fee at any EPCC Cashiers' office, send receipt via email to [specialized.adm@epcc.edu](mailto:specialized.adm@epcc.edu) or hand carry to: VV Campus, 919 Hunter, Enrollment Services Center; Admissions and Registration Office.

5. A grade of a "C" or better is required for all academic and specialized courses listed under the degree plan.

➤ EPCC Cumulative GPA of 2.7 is required.

➤ "Effective Fall 2011, and based on new federal regulations, students are not allowed to repeat previously passed courses more than Once". Students should meet with a counselor to determine how a repeat course (s) would impact his/her academic, prerequisite, specialized admissions, or transferability of courses. It is the student's responsibility to check with the Office of Student Financial Services to inquire how a repeat course (s) would impact their financial aid or veteran's assistance.

### TSIA2 MINIMUM REQUIRED ASSESSMENT SCORES FOR AAS DNTA

Test Area	Test Code	TSIA2 Cut Scores	Weighted Percentage
Math	PTMT	940	34
Reading & Writing	PTER	940	33
Essay	PTWE	6	33

➤ TSIA2 Official Assessment scores are valid for two (2) years with the highest test score used for qualifying and ranking.

➤ Posting of TSIA2 Assessment scores will take between 24 to 48 hours. Assessment Tests have to be completed at least 48 hours prior to ranking date. Consult your Dental Assisting Program Counselor for advice.

### DENTAL ASSISTING LICENSURE EXAM REQUIREMENTS

**NOTE:** After graduating with an AAS in Dental Assisting, graduates qualify to take the (DANB) Dental Assistant National Board (Dental Assisting Licensure Exam). Students must have a U.S. Identification (U.S. Citizenship, Green Card, or permit to work in the U.S.). Please contact Lourdes Garduno, DNTA Coordinator for more information at: 915-831-4048.

### DNTA PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Programs must also meet Pre-Program Specific Criteria prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

➤ **Immunizations and Titrers** – The following must be completed.

**POSITIVE TITER required for Hepatitis B vaccination series of three and Titer** (can take 4-6 months to complete) or Twinrix (Hepatitis A & B) series of four (4) shots: Days: #0, #7, #21, plus booster after 365 days or disease prior to TITER. Documentation of starting the series must be on file.

- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations (MMR) (completed) and Titer.**
- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Varicella Vaccination and Titer (completed).**
- **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (TDAP) vaccine (completed, expires after 10 years).**
- **Tuberculosis (TB) screening required annually. \*\*NOTE: It is highly recommended to complete any and all TB skin testing prior to receiving the MMR and/or Varicella vaccines. MMR or Varicella vaccines could cause a false negative TB skin test result. You may use either one of the following screenings:**

1. QuantiFERON (Q Gold) test **OR**
2. Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.

a. Individuals that will be using the TB skin test who have previously tested negative, have never tested, or are not sure if previously tested.

a. Initial 2 Step TB Skin Test (effective January 1, 2018, for all students/faculty new to health programs).

- i. Initial TB skin test (TST) administered and read 48-72 hours later.
- ii. If the initial TB skin test is negative, the second TST must be administered no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after administration of the initial TST.
- iii. If the initial TST is positive, DO NOT ADMINISTER the second TST. Individual needs Chest X-ray and annual TB Assessment/Clearance (or equivalent document) from Health Care Provider.

**NOTE: TB Skin Test that is Positive** (previously). Requires completed Annual TB Assessment/Clearance form.

- **Influenza vaccine is required (done annually).**
- **Meningitis or Booster** – (Effective January 1, 2012, a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination is required for all entering students under the age of 22. The term "entering students" includes new students to EPCC, transfer students, and returning students. Students must provide proof of an initial meningitis immunization or booster to the Admissions and Registration Department at any campus. The meningitis immunization must be administered at least 10 days before the start of the semester and must have been administered within the last five years).

**NOTE: If you have had the vaccination at an earlier date, you may start with a Titer, as the result will indicate if you need the vaccine. If you have not had the vaccination and after vaccination is applied, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.**

Visit Admission and Registration EPCC web page for additional information. **Website:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/immunization-law>

A tracking system, **COMPLIO**, will assist students and coordinators alike to be compliant with immunizations, CPR, First Aid, physical, etc. All students participating in health programs must be part of the American Databank, in order to keep their clinical data in compliance and updated. If you have any questions contact Lourdes Garduno, Program Coordinator at: [mgardun2@epcc.edu](mailto:mgardun2@epcc.edu), or Joy Pilant, Clinical Coordinator at: [jpilant@epcc.edu](mailto:jpilant@epcc.edu)

**COMPLIO Link:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Documents/Background Check Substance Abuse Testing.pdf>  
Follow the example below when inputting your Program required documents; students can find this information under the "Requirement Explanation" button.

The screenshot shows the DataBank interface for Immunization/Compliance. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Upload Documents', 'Video Tutorials', and 'Place Order'. The user is logged in as 'Immunization/Compliance Medical Imaging Tech Student'. The overall compliance status is 'Not Compliant' (13/14 Compliant). A red box highlights the 'Requirement Explanation' button. Below, a table shows a 'Measles Titer' requirement with a 'Submitted Date' of 1/25/2021 and a 'Submitted Date' of 11/18/2020. The table also includes columns for 'Submitted Data', 'Submitted Comments', and 'Administrator's Comments'.

The Dental Assisting Program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. 401 North Michigan Ave., Suite 3300; Chicago, IL 60611- 4250; Phone: (800) 232-6180.  
Email: [CODA | Commission on Dental Accreditation \(ada.org\)](mailto:CODA | Commission on Dental Accreditation (ada.org))

## DNTA AAS DEGREE PROGRAM COURSES

In order to complete the requirements for progression and graduation, students enrolled in this program must have a grade of "C" or better in all specialized courses. The term "specialized courses" refers to all courses carrying the prefix of the program in which the student is majoring or the prefix of another health-related discipline.

### Check El Paso Community College Catalog for Course Prerequisites

#### First Semester

BIOL 1306 Biology for Science Majors I (Lecture) (C) (MNS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent;  
OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313. **Corequisite:** BIOL 1106.

#### AND

BIOL 1106 Biology for Science Majors I (Lab) **Corequisite:** BIOL 1306.

#### OR

BIOL 1308 Biology for Non-Science Majors I (Lecture) (C) (MNS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent;  
OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313. **Corequisite:** BIOL 1108.

#### AND

BIOL 1108 Biology for Non-Science Majors I (Lab) **Corequisite:** BIOL 1308.

COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing

#### OR

ITSC 1301 Introduction to Computers  
Mathematics Elective<sup>1</sup> (C) (MNS)

#### Second Semester

Humanities or Fine Arts Elective<sup>2</sup> (C) (HFA)

Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective<sup>3</sup> (C) (SBC) (Preferred Course PSYC 2301)

Speech Communication Elective<sup>4</sup> (Preferred Course SPCH 1315)

### Third Semester

DNTA 1245 Preventive Dentistry  
DNTA 1301 Dental Materials  
DNTA 1305 Dental Radiology  
DNTA 1311 Dental Science  
DNTA 1315 Chairside Assisting                      **Corequisite:** DNTA 1353.  
DNTA 1353 Dental Assisting Applications        **Corequisite:** DNTA 1315.

### Fourth Semester

DNTA 1202 Communication and Behavior in the Dental Office  
DNTA 1447 Advanced Dental Science  
DNTA 2252 Advanced Dental Radiology                      **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1305.  
DNTA 2350 Advanced Dental Assisting Applications        **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1353.  
DNTA 2360 Clinical-Dental Assisting/Assistant I            **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1305.

### Fifth Semester

DNTA 1251 Dental Office Management  
DNTA 2230 Seminar for the Dental Assistant  
DNTA 2363 Clinical-Dental Assisting/Assistant II            **Prerequisites:** DNTA 2360 and DNTA 2252  
ENGL 1301 Composition I (C)                                      **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion of INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313 with a C or better; OR concurrent enrollment in INRW 0311 or INRW 0313.

<sup>1</sup>**Mathematics Elective:** Complete one course from MATH 1314, 1324, 1332, 1342, 2314, 2412, or 2413.  
<sup>2</sup>**Humanities or Fine Arts Elective:** Complete one course from ENGL 2322, 2323, 2341, PHIL 1301, or 2306.  
<sup>3</sup>**Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective:** Complete one course from PSYC 2301, 2314, or SPCH 1318.  
<sup>4</sup>**Speech Communication Elective:** SPCH 1315, 1318, or 1321.  
Courses may not be used more than once within the degree plan.

## **C2-DNTC CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION COURSES**

### **Check El Paso Community College Catalog for Course Prerequisites**

#### First Semester (Summer)

DNTA 1245 Preventive Dentistry  
DNTA 1301 Dental Materials  
DNTA 1305 Dental Radiology  
DNTA 1311 Dental Science  
DNTA 1315 Chairside Assisting                      **Corequisite:** DNTA 1353.  
DNTA 1353 Dental Assisting Applications        **Corequisite:** DNTA 1315.

#### Second Semester

DNTA 1202 Communication and Behavior in the Dental Office  
DNTA 1447 Advanced Dental Science  
DNTA 2252 Advanced Dental Radiology                      **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1305.  
DNTA 2350 Advanced Dental Assisting Applications        **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1353.  
DNTA 2360 Clinical-Dental Assisting/Assistant I            **Prerequisite:** DNTA 1305.

#### Third Semester

DNTA 1251 Dental Office Management    **Lab fee**  
DNTA 2230 Seminar for the Dental Assistant  
DNTA 2363 Clinical-Dental Assisting/Assistant II            **Prerequisites:** DNTA 2360 and DNTA 2252  
ENGL 1301 Composition I (C)                                      **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion of INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313 with a C or better; OR concurrent enrollment in INRW 0311 or INRW 0313.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Official Ranking Date: **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Program Begins-**Fall**.
- Maximum Students Admitted: **12 Students**.
- Community Wide Orientation online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>

- HIPAA online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa>
- Health Careers Orientation online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
- Online additional program-specific and career information: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health>
- Students who completed articulated or dual credit courses in health in high school should bring this to the attention of the counselor. College credit may still be available.
- DNTA website: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/dental-assisting>

## POST-ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

**Students are responsible for the following requirements AFTER accepting a seat in the Program.**

- Must file a degree plan with the designated Health Counselor.
  - **Background Check** - (fee is required). Each student must complete a background check prior to enrolling in clinical courses. Background checks are required prior to acceptance into most health programs or courses. Students are responsible for the costs. Currently, the approved vendor for El Paso Community College is American Databank: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>. Only background checks from American Databank are accepted. **You will receive a letter from the Dean of Health Career and Technical Education, Math & Science division to inform you of the status of your background check. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas/health care facilities until cleared.**
- \*\*\*NOTE: If a student has not enrolled in a health-related program for one or more semesters, the student must redo the background check at his/her own expense, for further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator.

There are two Levels of background checks: **Level I** applies to all students and includes: (1) Social Security Number Verification. (2) Criminal Search 7 years minimum or up to five criminal searches. (3) Violent Sexual Offender and Predator Registry Search. (4) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) list of Excluded Individuals/Entities. (5) GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs. (6) U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), and (7) State Exclusion List.

**Level II** is for students already licensed or certified in any area. **Level II** requires all of the **Level 1** elements plus (1) License Verification, (2) Certification Verification, and (3) Employment Verification, including reason for separation and eligibility for re-hire.

A positive criminal history will require proof of the official case disposition for clearance. Generally: Disqualifying criminal offenses include but are not limited to any felony conviction within the last 10 years, or two or more misdemeanors in crimes against persons, or families, such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, assault, battery, aggravated robbery, theft. Any misdemeanor or felony conviction involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation against a child, vulnerable adult, or disabled individual. Felonies or two misdemeanors involving manufacture, importation, delivery, or possession of controlled substances, including felony conviction of DWI or two misdemeanor DWI convictions. Deferred adjudication for any felony is also a disqualifying event for enrolling into any of the Health Programs.

**Please note** that many professional licensure or certification agencies may have additional requirements. You should reference the requirements for each agency.

- **Community Wide Orientation** - Conducted online: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation> (Must be renewed every year).
- **CPR** - American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/BLS (only Health Provider training accepted) card from AHA. Military Training Network (AHA recognized) cards will be accepted. Hybrid AHA courses with live skills demonstration will be accepted. CPR card must remain current throughout the course of the program (Certification may not be older than two (2) years).
- **HIPAA Training** - Conducted online: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa> (must be renewed every year).
- **Physical Examination** (Current) completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the United States (Not older than one year). **Website:** [FFAA-1.pdf \(epcc.edu\)](#)
- **Physical Technical Standards Form** (completed): <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf>
- **Program Orientation.** "Admitted students will receive notification of Program Orientation following verified acceptance into the program."
- **Specialized Equipment** in accordance with course syllabi students must purchase their own supplies. The program coordinator will provide students with detailed information.
- **Substance Abuse Screening** will be required for each student enrolling in health career programs with clinical components. The student will be required to pay for any additional drug abuse screen test if it must be repeated for any reason. **\*\*\*NOTE: Students must re-take and pay for substance abuse test if test was taken three months prior to the first clinical education course.** For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator. **Website:** <http://www.elpasoex.com/>
- **Textbooks** and other course materials must be purchased at the student's expense in accordance with course syllabi.

- **Transportation:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.
- **Uniforms, Dental Assisting Supplies, and Miscellaneous Clinical Supplies**-In accordance with course syllabi; students must purchase their own uniforms, dental assisting supplies, and miscellaneous clinical supplies. The Program Coordinator will provide students with detailed information.

### OTHER INFORMATION

- CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the Health CTE, Credit and CE, Math & Science Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-7820 for more information.
- Our EPCC Rio Grande Border Health Clinic is located at the Rio Grande Campus, for information call: 915- 831-4016 or call 915-831-4017 for Dental, Medical Sonography, Echocardiogram or Physical Therapy clinics.

**This document is to be used with EPCC College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures. This is for informational purposes only and is not a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised September 2025 and is subject to change without prior notice.**

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