

Dental Assisting

Fall 2027 | *Annual Bulletin*



Coastal Carolina Community College

444 Western Boulevard | Jacksonville, NC 28546

www.coastalcarolina.edu | 910.455.1221

Coastal Carolina Community College
Dental Assisting Program

Table of Contents

Designated Points of Contact	1
Section I: Applying to the Dental Assisting Program.....	2
Accreditation.....	3
Things You Should Know Before You Apply.....	4
Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)	5
Communicable Disease Statement.....	6
Student Appearance Policy	7
Important Dates.....	9
Dental Assisting Program Requirements for Eligibility – Level 1	10
Dental Assisting Program Requirements for Eligibility – Level 2	12
Health Education Systems Incorporated A ² Exam Details	13
Selection of Qualified Applicants	14
Point System A	16
Point System B.....	18
Frequently Asked Questions	20
Dental Assisting Program Quick Reference Check List.....	21
Section II: Dental Assisting Program Information.....	22
Dental Assisting Program Goals	23
Scope of Practice for Dental Assistants	23
Employment Opportunities	23
Academic Regulations	24
Training in Infection Control Procedures	24
Readmission/Transfer Procedure	24
Dental Assisting (D45240) Curriculum Description	25
Tuition, Fees, and Other Expenses	26
Financial Aid Information.....	27
Dental Assisting Technical Standards	28
Contact Information	30
Request for Accommodation Information	30
Equal Educational Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy	30
Appendices: Worksheets	0
Dental Assisting Applicant Points Worksheet – Point System A.....	1
Dental Assisting Applicant Points Worksheet – Point System B.....	2

Designated Points of Contact

Academic Advisors for Military Off-Campus Sites

Provides assistance to Service members seeking information regarding available student support services at Coastal Carolina Community College, in addition to information regarding admissions, distance education, registration, official degree plans, and other military and community resources.

Phone: (910) 451-2391

Email: militaryoffcampus@coastalcarolina.edu

Admissions & Counseling Services

Provides assistance for admissions, placement testing, academic advising, academic counseling, review of satisfactory academic progress, and program of study.

Phone: (910) 938-6394

Email: admissions@coastalcarolina.edu

Coordinator for Disability Support Services

Provides assistance in establishing and maintaining disability support services and advising.

Phone: (910) 938-6331

Email: adasupport@coastalcarolina.edu

Financial Aid

Provides assistance to students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, scholarships, and Federal Work-Study employment opportunities.

Phone: (910) 938-6749

Email: finaid@coastalcarolina.edu

Human Services

Provides assistance to students seeking Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding or career placement services.

Phone: (910) 938-6309

Email: humanservices@coastalcarolina.edu

Payment Options

Pay tuition or make inquiries regarding your billing statements.

Phone: (910) 938-6342

Email: studentpayments@coastalcarolina.edu

Registrar

Provides assistance for transcript request and processing, general residency questions, graduation applications, student records, and transcript evaluations.

Phone: (910) 938-6860

Email: registrar@coastalcarolina.edu

Success Coaches

Provides assistance with campus resources, tutoring, and study skills by using methods that help students reach their academic goals and graduate or complete their programs on time.

Phone: (910) 938-6828

Email: studentsuccess@coastalcarolina.edu

Veterans Programs

Provides assistance to military-connected students with veteran's entitlement benefit questions, benefit application assistance, program certification, and information regarding community resources.

Phone: (910) 938-6316

Email: veterans@coastalcarolina.edu

Section I:

Applying to the Dental Assisting Program

Accreditation

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Coastal Carolina Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Coastal Carolina Community College may also offer credentials such as diplomas and certificates at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Coastal Carolina Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Commission on Dental Accreditation

The programs in Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and have been granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (800) 232-6108 or at 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-4250. The Commission's web address is: <https://coda.ada.org>.

Student Complaints

The Commission on Dental Accreditation will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-4250 or by calling (800) 232-6108. The Commission's web address is: <https://coda.ada.org>.

Things You Should Know Before You Apply

Upon acceptance into the Coastal Carolina Community College (Coastal) Dental Assisting program, you will be required to:

- Adhere to all aspects of clinical agency minimum age requirements. Students must be at least 17 years of age prior to starting clinical rotations to meet the minimum age requirement of all clinical agencies.
- Have a physical exam and complete a Student Medical Form documenting a level of physical and emotional health consistent with the ability to practice dental assisting in an entry level clinical setting. Complete the Eye Examination Form with an optometrist/ophthalmologist.
- Document that you have had required immunizations specified on the Student Medical Form.
- Be screened for tuberculosis (both on admission and annually).
- Obtain and maintain current certification in American Heart Association's Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (often referred to as BLS or CPR). This certification must be maintained through the duration of the program. Additional information will be provided during the orientation.
- Travel at your own expense to out of town clinical agency locations (when necessary) in order to complete clinical requirements of the program. You will be expected to make your own arrangements for transportation and meals as necessary for clinical practice rotations.
 - Applicants who are admitted into the Dental Assisting program will need a REAL ID to participate in clinical rotations aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station New River.
- Be a clinical patient for your classmates.
- Clinical agencies may deny clinical privileges to students based upon incidents during previous employment.
- At your own expense, have a criminal background check and urine drug screen.
 - These are needed to obtain access to our clinical agencies. The results are provided to our affiliated clinical agencies. They do not affect admission decisions, but it is possible that the results may prevent the applicant from participating in the clinical rotations, and thus from continuing in the program.

Currently, there are no distance education options for completing the entire Dental Assisting program. Applicants who are accepted should typically expect to be available Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Students in the Dental Assisting program are required to abide by the Dental Department's Student Appearance Policy. This policy, which will be discussed further during the Information Session, provides details about what is expected in the classroom, pre-clinic, clinic, and lab settings. Students will be provided with greater information about general hygiene expectations as well as guidelines for jewelry, nail art, and body art. The Student Appearance Policy also contains requirements designed to protect students' health and safety, such as wearing personal protective equipment and appropriate footwear, securing long hair, preventing contamination, and displaying identification tags.

Prospective applicants should consider the risk associated with the potential adverse effects of anesthetic gases and radiation on an unborn child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides information about anesthetic gases and ways to reduce exposure for a healthier pregnancy at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/reproductive-health/prevention/anesthetic-gases.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/radiation-emergencies/hcp/clinical-guidance/pregnancy.html>.

In the event of a health condition that may temporarily limit a student's ability to meet the program's Technical Standards or results in prolonged absences, a statement from their medical care provider declaring suitability to return to learning activities may be required. Health conditions do not excuse a student from meeting all programmatic, regulatory, and accreditation requirements.

Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)

Applicants to the Dental Assisting program should be aware that the following questions are among several which must be answered when completing the Dental Assisting National Board Examination Application. The answers to these questions, as well as additional questions applicants may be asked, may determine the applicant's eligibility to take the DANB exam. Applicants should contact the Dental Assisting National Board if they have any questions.

Background Information Questions – DANB National Exam Applications

1. Is your answer “yes” to either of the following?
 - In the last five years, have you been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a felony or any crime punishable by confinement in a state or federal prison for any length of time?
 - Are you currently serving a sentence of confinement, home detention, parole, probation, or other court-ordered supervision, or are you subject to a reporting requirement (e.g., sex offender or violent offender registry) in connection with **any** felony conviction received in your lifetime?
It is not necessary to report misdemeanor convictions. If you are uncertain whether a conviction was for a felony or a misdemeanor, you must mark “yes.”
2. Have you ever been the subject of any of the following?
 - Suspension, revocation, or voluntary surrender of your dental assisting license, registration, or other state recognized dental assisting credential?
 - Suspension, revocation, or voluntary surrender of a license, registration, or other state-recognized credential in any profession?
 - Loss of authorization to practice dental assisting or any profession as an employee of the federal government?
 - Loss of authorization to practice dental assisting or any profession in a jurisdiction that does not require registration, licensure, or other recognized employment credential?
 - Disciplinary action by a professional regulatory board, certifying or examination agency, or other professional body?
 - Investigation by or dismissal from an educational institution or employer for cheating, violating an educational institution's or other organization's code of conduct or similar document, or any other ethical violation?
3. Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law?

Dental Assisting National Board

444 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3985
800-367-3262
www.danb.org

Communicable Disease Statement

Students enrolled in Nursing and Allied Health programs are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and body fluids, and the potential exists for transmission of infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis, etcetera). Discrimination against patients with HIV and other infectious diseases is prohibited; therefore, students are required to treat all patients assigned. Refusal to treat any patient may affect the student's academic success.

The complete Communicable Disease Policy is available in the *College Catalog*.

Students enrolled in any Nursing and Allied Health program who test positive for HIV or Hepatitis prior to or at any point during their enrollment in the program must submit a written notification to:

Chief, Communicable Disease Control Branch
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1902

Students who enter any Nursing and Allied Health program will be required to read and sign a Communicable Disease Statement acknowledgement form. This form becomes part of the student's departmental record and attests that the student:

- Has been informed of their risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and body fluids;
- Understands the potential for transmission of infectious diseases;
- Agrees to provide care for all patients assigned to them;
- Understands that refusal to treat any patient may affect their academic success;
- Has been informed of the complete Communicable Disease Policy; and
- Must comply with all related guidelines and procedures.

The student and a witness must sign the Communicable Disease Statement acknowledgment form.

Student Appearance Policy

General Personal Care Expectations of Dental Students

Hair	• Clean • Natural hair color (no purple, blue, red, orange, etc.)
Makeup	• Light natural (no glitter, dark, neon, etc.)
Body Hygiene	• Light, non-offensive perfumes • Deodorant
Oral Hygiene	• Brush and floss regularly • Use a tongue cleaner • Use mouthwash
Piercings	• Allowed, but restricted in pre-clinic, clinic, and some labs • Due to infection control standards, students may not participate in clinical experiences for a period of six (6) weeks following the placement of a new piercing. Students are responsible for planning accordingly.
Tattoos	• Tattoos that are vulgar, explicit, discriminatory, or otherwise disruptive to the educational environment or inconsistent with the professional standards of affiliated clinical agencies must be covered. Clinical partners may also have specific appearance policies that apply to all students assigned to their facilities. While tattoo visibility does not affect admission decisions, it is possible that a clinical agency's policy may require tattoos to be covered in order for a student to participate in clinical rotations. Failure to comply with program or agency requirements may impact a student's ability to complete clinical experiences and continue in the program. • Due to infection control standards, students may not participate in clinical experiences for a period of six (6) weeks following the placement of a new tattoo. Students are responsible for planning accordingly.
Nails	• Neatly manicured • Short (should not be seen over fingertips) • No acrylics/gel/polish
Smoking	• Highly discouraged • Dismissed from preclinic/clinic/lab if smell is detected

General Attire Expectations of Dental Students

- Attire should be neat and clean.
- Shorts and jeans are acceptable as long as they are in good taste.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be at least fingertip (appropriate) length.
- Shoulder straps should be at least 2" wide.
- Bare midriffs, strapless tops and dresses, spaghetti straps, one shoulder tops, low neck lines that reveal cleavage, and other types of provocative clothing are not to be worn.
- No undergarments should be visible.
- Long shirt/jacket must be long enough to cover buttocks when wearing leggings/tights/very tight pants.
- Graphics/texts must be in good taste and not vulgar or offensive.
- No pajamas or slippers.
- All facial hair on men shall be well groomed and clean.

Materials Laboratory Attire

Same as General Attire, but also:

- Hair secured
- No "dangly" earrings (studs/small hoops only)
- No necklace

- No arm and hand jewelry (watch/wedding band-which must be removed depending on project/materials-keep in locker or home)
- No strings/straps on clothing
- Long pants
- Closed-toed shoes
- Lab apron
- Eye protection
- Dental shirts are permitted as long as they are in good taste.

Pre-Clinical Attire (Non-Patient Care)

- Hair neatly secured (off collar, hair restraints must be aseptic)
- No jewelry (nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, ears, etc.) except watch/wedding band
- Clean, wrinkle-free scrubs
- Name tag
- White or black clinic shoes and socks should cover exposed skin (no holes, no mesh, heel strap/lip), with the exception of compression socks
- Eye protection (side shields)
- Optional: Class jacket, solid long sleeve underscrub tee

Pre-Clinical/Clinical Attire (Patient Care)

- Hair neatly secured (off collar, hair restraints must be aseptic)
- Clean class surgical cap
- No jewelry (nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, ears, etc.) except watch/wedding band
- Clean, wrinkle-free scrubs
- Name tag
- White or black clinic shoes and socks should cover exposed skin (no holes, no mesh, heel strap/lip), with the exception of compression socks
- Clean, wrinkle-free class lab gown (fastened completely)
- Eye protection (side shields)
- Face shield (if aerosols generated)
- Gown and surgical cap must be placed in a labeled zip-top bag at the end of the session, taken home and cleaned, and not hung in the clinic to be reused.
- Lab gowns are not worn outside of the Dental Clinic (into the hallway).
- Clinic shoes should not be worn out of the Health Occupational Science Building.
- No hangers are allowed in the Dental Clinic.
- Optional: solid long sleeve underscrub tee

Mask and gloves will be provided in clinic.

Important Dates

Information Sessions	July 1, 2026 – January 29, 2027
Application Period	October 1, 2026 – January 29, 2027
Last day to take Health Education Systems Incorporated (HESI) A ² exam to meet deadline	January 27, 2027
For the tabulation of points, an applicant must ensure the following are on file at Coastal Carolina Community College: - HESI A² exam scores - Transcripts verifying completion of related courses	January 29, 2027
Points Verification Letters mailed	February 12, 2027
Decision Letters mailed	March 5, 2027
Late Consideration	March 5, 2027 – August 14, 2027

Seated Information Sessions

Date	Time	Day	Location
August 7, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Friday	BT 101
September 9, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday	BT 101
October 6, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Tuesday	CE 103
November 12, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Thursday	BT 101

Registration is encouraged. To register for a seated session, please go to www.coastalcarolina.edu/academics/programs/health-science/dental. All sessions will begin on time and no one will be admitted once a session begins. You must stay for the entire session to receive credit. Please be prepared to stay 1 ½ hours for completion of the session. Children are not permitted into the information sessions. Sessions will be held in either the A.D. Guy Business Technology Building (BT) room 101 or the Kenneth B. Hurst Continuing Education Building (CE) room 103.

Online Information Sessions

- Available July 1, 2026 – January 29, 2027
- To attend an online information session, please visit www.coastalcarolina.edu/academics/programs/health-science/dental/. Print a Dental Assisting Bulletin to follow along with the presentation. You are responsible for adhering to the information in this Bulletin.
- The session must be viewed all the way through to receive credit for attendance. You will not be allowed to complete eligibility if you do not complete the survey at the end of the recorded session.

Dental Assisting Program Requirements for Eligibility – Level 1

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the following eligibility requirements (Level 1) are met before completing an Eligibility Application with any Academic Advisor/Counselor in Student Services (Level 2):

1. View or attend a mandatory Dental Information Session (see *Important Dates* for details).
2. Complete the Residency Determination application. The application is available online at www.coastalcarolina.edu.
3. Submit an application to Coastal Carolina Community College. The application is available online at www.coastalcarolina.edu/admissions.
4. Submit all official transcript(s) to the Admissions Office. Official transcripts include:
 - High school (or high school equivalency)
 - All colleges or schools attended after high school
 - Credit by Examination scores (e.g., Advanced Placement, Cambridge Assessment International Education, College Level Examination Program, DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, International Baccalaureate)
5. Meet minimum college-approved placement requirements in both English **and** mathematics by meeting one, or a combination, of the following:
 - i. An associate degree or higher from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. Graduated from any United States high school within the last 10 years from the start of the program with an unweighted GPA of 2.8 or higher; or
 - iii. Completed a college-approved placement test and meet the minimum scores listed in Table 1 (test scores must be earned on or after August 1, 2024); or

Table 1: College Approved Placement Test Scoring

NROC/EdReady		SAT		ACT		Next-Generation Accuplacer	
English	70 (Tier 2)	Reading/ Writing	480	English or Reading	18 or 22	Next Gen. Writing or Reading	250
Math	70 (Tier 2)	Math	530	Math	22	Next Gen. Arithmetic	260
						Next Gen. Quantitative Reasoning	260

- iv. Completed (with a minimum of the grade indicated) or enrolled in one of the following English and mathematics courses:
 - a. English courses:
 - BSP 4002 (P2)
 - ENG 002 (P2)
 - ENG 011 (P)
 - AND**
 - b. Mathematics courses:
 - BSP 4003 (P2)
 - MAT 003 (P2)
 - MAT 025 (C)
 - MAT 035 (C)

Note: Applicants who are unsure whether or not they meet either the English or the mathematics placement requirements should meet with an Academic Advisor/Counselor. Applicants taking a placement test at a location other than Coastal must submit official test scores prior to meeting with an Academic Advisor/Counselor to complete an Eligibility Application.

6. Complete the Health Education Systems Incorporated (HESI) A² exam and earn at minimum the following scores:

Subject Area	Minimum Score	Minimum Average Score
Reading Comprehension	70%	75%
Grammar	70%	
Vocabulary	70%	
Mathematics	70%	

- Applicants must request the payment link from an Academic Advisor/Counselor.
- If an applicant chooses to take the test at a site other than Coastal, the official scores must be sent from HESI and received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day of the application period. See the *Health Education Systems Incorporated A² Exam Details* page for additional information.

Dental Assisting Program Requirements for Eligibility – Level 2

7. Individuals who have met Level 1 eligibility requirements will meet with any Academic Advisor/Counselor in the Student Center on Coastal's main campus to complete an Eligibility Application. Please arrive no later than 30 minutes before closing.
 - Verification of points is completed **after** the application period has ended. Academic Advisors/Counselors will not be verifying points when meeting with the applicant to complete the Eligibility Application.
 - Applicants who are unable to come to campus to complete a Dental Assisting Eligibility Application must contact the Academic Advisor/Counselor designated for the Dental programs at alliedhealthadmissions@coastalcarolina.edu before the final day of the application period.
8. Submit documentation to earn additional points (see deadlines listed on *Important Dates* page).
 - Any documentation for additional points that is received after the given deadline, regardless of the date postmarked, will not be considered.
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to resubmit updated documents if reapplying.
9. Ensure updated transcripts for courses completed in the Fall 2026 semester (if applicable) are on file at Coastal no later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day of the application period.

Health Education Systems Incorporated A² Exam Details

Content

- Students will be tested in the following areas: reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and mathematics.

Availability

- The HESI A² exam may take up to four hours to complete. The exam is available Monday – Thursday (8:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.) or Friday (8:00 a.m.) on Coastal's main campus. Available appointment times are viewable two weeks in advance. The testing schedule is subject to change. Please know, payment must be completed prior to scheduling the testing appointment.

Registration and Payment

- Applicants must obtain the payment link from an Academic Advisor/Counselor.
- Applicants must register and pay online for the HESI A² exam ahead of time by setting up an Evolve/Elsevier account. The estimated cost of the exam is \$55 but is subject to change. A study guide is available for purchase in the College Store.
- Payment must be completed prior to scheduling the testing appointment.

Schedule an Appointment – Seated

- Applicants must schedule an appointment with the Testing and Placement Center through the Admissions page on Coastal's website (click on the Placement Testing tile).
- If an applicant must cancel the appointment, they must notify the Testing and Placement Center at least 24 hours in advance. Failure to do so may result in an applicant being unable to make another appointment.
- Due to limited testing space, if an applicant misses or cancels two appointments, they will not be able to reschedule for two weeks after the last missed or cancelled appointment.

Scores

- Official scores may be viewed through the applicant's Evolve/Elsevier account.
- If an applicant decides to test a second time, they must pay the exam fee again (through a payment link obtained from an Academic Advisor/Counselor).
- Applicants may take the HESI A² exam twice in an eligibility period (September 1 – August 31) at Coastal.
- HESI A² exam scores must be completed within three years prior to entering the program to be valid for the application process (on or after August 1, 2023).

Off-Site Testing

- It is the applicant's responsibility to locate an alternate testing site. Coastal does not have a testing ID to provide to other sites.
- If a student tests at another site, they must request an official transcript to be sent directly to Coastal (through the HESI website) for an additional fee.

Remote/Virtual Testing

- Remote/virtual testing is available through ProctorU. The estimated cost of the exam is \$87 but is subject to change. Please see an Academic Advisor/Counselor for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

- Applicants must have an approved accommodation on file with the college to receive ADA accommodations for the HESI A² exam. Prior to any implementation of accommodation services, applicants must contact the Coordinator for Disability Support Services at (910) 938-6331 or adasupport@coastalcarolina.edu within a reasonable timeframe to determine eligibility before purchasing the exam.

Selection of Qualified Applicants

Coastal has a limited number of spaces available in the Dental Assisting program. Admissions decisions are determined through a standardized process using established criteria.

A qualified applicant is defined as an applicant who meets all Level 2 eligibility requirements and submits a complete Eligibility Application during the application period.

Applicants will be awarded points for grades received in specific Dental Assisting related courses based on the point system that best fits their profile. Courses taken for points must be completed by the end of the Fall 2026 semester.

Point Systems

There are two point systems:

- **Point System A** – College courses
- **Point System B** – High school courses

Point System A and Point System B cannot be combined. If the applicant is eligible for consideration under both point systems, the point system with the higher point total will be used for ranking.

Points will be awarded for courses, to include substitutions, completed with a grade of C or higher. Points will not be awarded for grades of C- or lower. Additional points may be awarded for completing ACA 122 Transfer and Career Success with a grade of A.

Points Verification

The tabulation of points is completed after the January 29, 2027 deadline to submit documentation. Points verification letters will be mailed to eligible applicants by February 12, 2027. Eligible applicants will be given a specific time frame to be able to question or request a review of the calculated point total. After that time, point calculations are considered accurate and final and will not be recalculated.

Accepted Students

Up to 28 of the highest-ranking applicants will be *accepted* into the Dental Assisting program.

- In the event that applicants have the same number of points, the HESI A² exam total score will determine ranking.
- If there is still a tie, the applicant who submitted their Dental Assisting application first will be ranked higher (date and time will be recorded on the Eligibility Application form).

Applicants accepted to the Dental Assisting program must attend an orientation/registration meeting.

Alternates

All remaining qualified applicants will be placed on the alternate list and ranked in point order. Should a space become available prior to the start of the program, the next qualified alternate will be notified.

Notification

The following letters will be mailed to qualified applicants by March 5, 2027:

- **Acceptance Letter** – Up to 28 highest-ranking applicants
- **Alternate Letter** – Next group of highest-ranking applicants

Applicants who receive an Acceptance Letter or Alternate Letter will also receive an Agreement Form. This form must be signed, dated, and returned by the deadline indicated in the letter and on the form. Failure to submit this form by the deadline, regardless of the date postmarked, will result in placement at the bottom of the alternate list.

Once an applicant accepts admission for any 2027 Nursing & Allied Health program at Coastal, all applications on file for any other 2027 Nursing & Allied Health programs at Coastal will be cancelled.

An applicant who, for any reason, is unable to enter the 2027 Dental Assisting program must reapply for the 2028 Dental Assisting program, attend a 2028 Dental Information Session, and meet all admission requirements to be considered for the 2028 Dental Assisting program.

It is every applicant's responsibility to notify the Admissions Office as well as the Academic Advisor/Counselor designated for the Dental programs of any address and/or phone number changes.

Late Consideration

The Academic Advisor/Counselor designated for the Dental programs may continue taking applications for available space after the application period has ended. Please speak with an Academic Advisor/Counselor for more information.

- The late consideration period is March 5, 2027 – August 14, 2027.
- All applicants applying after the deadline must meet all requirements to apply prior to completing the Eligibility Application.
- Late consideration eligible applicants will be placed on the second alternate list in the order in which they complete a Dental Assisting Eligibility Application.
- Applicants will not receive points during the late consideration period.
- All applicants must attend orientation to be eligible for late consideration.

It is every applicant's responsibility to notify the Admissions Office as well as the Academic Advisor/Counselor designated for the Dental programs of any address and/or phone number changes.

Point System A

Points will be valued according to Coastal's grading scale and will be awarded according to the letter grade on the applicant's official transcript(s). Applicants may receive up to 36 points for all four related college courses.

Dental Assisting Related Course	Substitutions ² (Choose one set)	Point Value		
		Grade: A/A- AP: 5 Cambridge: A* & A CLEP: 70+ DSST: 468-500 International Baccalaureate: 7	Grade: B+/B/B- AP: 4 Cambridge: C & B CLEP: 60-69 DSST: 434-467 International Baccalaureate: 6	Grade: C+/C AP: 3 Cambridge: E & D CLEP: 50-59 DSST: 400-433 International Baccalaureate: 4-5
BIO 106 Introduction to Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology (5 year time limit) ¹	Set 1: BIO 163 & BIO 170 Set 2: BIO 163 & BIO 175 Set 3: BIO 163 & BIO 275 Set 4: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 170 Set 5: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 175 Set 6: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 275 (5 year time limit) ¹	9/3	6/2	4/1
CIS 110 Introduction to Computers	N/A	8	4	2
ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry	N/A	8	4	2
SOC 240 Social Psychology ³	PSY 150 AND SOC 210	8	4	2

¹ Biology courses taken before Fall 2022 are considered ineligible for points purposes for admission into the 2027 Dental Assisting program.

² Substitution classes must be taken and passed with a minimum grade of a C prior to the start of the program.

³ Please contact an Academic Advisor/Counselor with questions regarding potential course substitutions.

BIO 106 and BIO 170 are not a part of the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science curriculum. Taking classes outside of the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science curriculum may affect financial aid or veterans' benefits. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm with Financial Aid or the Office of Veterans Programs the impact this may have on benefits. For students who may also be applying to the Dental Hygiene program, BIO 163 is required. BIO 168 and BIO 169 cannot be substituted for BIO 163 in the Dental Hygiene program. Therefore, BIO 168 and BIO 169 will not count for points for the Dental Hygiene program.

Applicants are **not** required to complete these courses prior to beginning the program. However, it is helpful to the applicant's overall ranking to have completed as many of these courses as possible by the end of Fall 2026. *Applicants completing related courses prior to beginning the Dental Assisting program may not be considered full-time status once accepted into the Dental Assisting program.*

Applicants may be awarded points for equivalent courses completed at another accredited college with a grade of C or higher. Grade points will be valued according to Coastal's grading scale and will be awarded by the letter grade on the applicant's official transcript(s). **In order for these courses to be considered for points, transcripts must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the final day of the application period.** Courses with a grade of C- will not count for points.

Submission of AP or CLEP scores may satisfy the requirement for the course. Applicants may submit scores for points or take the course for points **but may not receive points for both.**

Additional Points for Point System A

Dental Assisting applicants may earn up to 22 additional points for the following:

- A. Completion of ACA 122 Transfer and Career Success
- B. HESI A² exam scores

A. Completion of ACA 122 Transfer and Career Success

Applicants who complete ACA 122 Transfer and Career Success with an A in the course will earn two additional points.

B. Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) A² Exam Scores

Students submitting the HESI A² exam may receive additional points according to the following table (cumulative scores are not rounded):

Cumulative Percentage Range	Points Awarded
92.5 – 100.0	20
84.5 – 92.4	15
79.5 – 84.4	10
75.0 – 79.4	5

Point System B

Point System B applies to applicants who:

- are still enrolled in their senior year of high school **OR**
- have graduated from high school but will not have all of the college-level related courses for the Dental Assisting program completed by the end of Fall 2026.

High school course work may be submitted for points only if the course is worth one credit and the applicant graduated from high school within three years from the term they will enter the Dental Assisting program (2024 or after for entry into the 2027 Dental Assisting program). Points will be valued according to the letter grade on the applicant's official transcript(s). Applicants may receive up to 36 points for specific high school coursework detailed below.

High School Courses	Point Value For Course Grade ⁵	
	A	B
Biology	9	5
Chemistry/Physics OR Advanced Biology ⁴	9	5
Algebra I OR Algebra II OR Algebra III OR Geometry OR higher-level math ⁴	7	3
English III (11 th grade English) OR English IV (12 th grade English) ⁴	7	3

⁴ Points will be awarded for only one course in each category.

⁵ Honors, AP, and IB designated courses with grades of A or B will receive one additional point in each category.

For the purpose of North Carolina Common Core Integrated Math courses, the following are equivalents under Point System B: Math I=Algebra I, Math II=Geometry, Math III=Algebra II.

High school equivalency scores will not be used to determine points. Only courses actually completed in high school, for which an applicant received an overall grade, can be utilized to determine points.

Additional Points for Point System B

Dental Assisting applicants may earn up to 22 additional points for the following:

- A. Completion of Health Science or Biomedical Technology courses
- B. HESI A² exam scores

A. Completion of Health Science or Biomedical Technology Courses

Applicants who have completed Health Science I and Health Science II **or** Biomedical Technology I and Biomedical Technology II at the high school level with a B or higher will earn up to an additional two points. One point will be given for each course completed (two points maximum).

B. Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) A² Exam Scores

Students submitting the HESI A² exam may receive additional points according to the following table (cumulative scores are not rounded):

Cumulative Percentage Range	Points Awarded
92.5 – 100.0	20
84.5 – 92.4	15
79.5 – 84.4	10
75.0 – 79.4	5

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying

Q: Can I use the scores I received at a previous school?

A: Yes, as long as they are NROC/EdReady, SAT, ACT, or Next-Generation Accuplacer scores and meet the previously specified time requirements. Additionally, the official scores must be sent to Coastal from the school where the testing occurred.

Q: If I attended a Dental Information Session last year, do I have to attend another one this year?

A: Yes, because the requirements and selection process may differ yearly.

Points

Q: Can I earn points from courses in both the A and the B point systems?

A: No, only one of the point systems may be used.

Q: When is the deadline for which a course must be completed to earn points?

A: Courses to be evaluated for points for the 2027 Dental Assisting program must be completed by the end of the Fall 2026 semester and the final transcripts received no later than 5:00 pm on the final day of the application period.

Q: What is the time frame for when my science courses are valid for the 2027 Dental Assisting program?

A: Science courses taken in/after Fall 2022 are valid when applying to the 2027 Dental Assisting program.

Q: Can my high school equivalency scores be used to determine Point System B?

A: No. Only courses actually completed in high school, for which you received an overall grade, can be utilized to determine points.

HESI A² Exam

Q: I want to try to improve my scores. Can I take just one section of the exam or do I have to retake all of them?

A: You will need to retake the entire exam. The highest total HESI A² exam score will be used for eligibility and points.

Q: Am I allowed to take a break during the exam?

A: Yes, but you will need to complete the exam the same day, within the four-hour window.

Q: I took the HESI A² exam previously. Will I have to retake it?

A: If you took the HESI A² exam within three years of applying for the program, your scores are still valid.

Q: How often can I test?

A: Applicants may test twice at Coastal within an eligibility cycle (September 1st – August 31st).

Q: Do you superscore?

A: Yes. The highest score in each subject area will be used and will also be used in the calculation of the average score.

Dental Assisting Program Quick Reference Check List

- ❑ Completed mandatory Dental Information Session (*online or seated*)
- ❑ Completed Coastal Admissions steps (*new or returning student*)
- ❑ Coastal has **all** official transcripts on file:
 - High school transcript (*required for all students, regardless of higher education*)
 - All secondary educational institutions (*regardless of completion or transferring of credits*)
 - Updated official transcript once final grades are submitted (*if taking courses during current fall semester at another educational institution*)
- ❑ Completed HESI A² exam and met minimum scores required (*see Health Education Systems Incorporated A² Exam Details page for more information*)
- ❑ All Level 1 Eligibility requirements met
- ❑ Completed Eligibility Application with an Academic Advisor/Counselor (*for all programs you are interested in*)

Congratulations! You have completed all of the necessary steps toward applying for the 2027 Dental Assisting program. Continue checking your Coastal email for notifications and refer to the *Important Dates* page for information on when point verification letters and decision letters will be mailed.

Section II:

Dental Assisting Program Information

Dental Assisting Program Goals

The Dental Assisting program goals are detailed below:

1. To provide a student-centered teaching environment that engages the students as active learners.
2. To educate dental assisting students in the ethical, legal, and competent practice of dental assisting.
3. To comprehensively prepare students to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatment.
4. To prepare students to function as integral members of the dental team while performing chairside and related office and laboratory procedures.
5. To prepare dental assistants with the interpersonal skills and necessary competencies to provide patient-centered care.
6. To educate students on current technologies and the skills necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing healthcare system.
7. To engage students in the promotion of dental health standards through service to the community and involvement with professional organizations.

Scope of Practice for Dental Assistants

Dental assistants successfully completing the Dental Assisting program at Coastal may perform all functions of a dental assistant II as described by the North Carolina Dental Practice Act.

All functions that are legally delegable to Dental Assistants II in North Carolina are taught to clinical competency with the exception of the following:

1. Adjusting full and partial dentures
2. Removing periodontal dressing
3. Placing ligature wire or lock pins
4. Inserting spacer wires or springs
5. Monitoring patient under nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation
6. Fit or size orthodontic bands or brackets

Employment Opportunities

There are a variety of employment opportunities for graduates of the Dental Assisting program. These options include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Private practice – general dentistry and specialties contract services for military installations
- State institutions – prison system, public health organizations, special needs organizations
- Supply companies/sales
- Consulting

Academic Regulations

Once accepted in the Dental Assisting program, students must meet the following academic standards:

- Maintain grades of C+ (77%) or higher on all dental (DEN prefix) courses. For science courses, students must maintain a grade of C (73%) or higher. For all other related courses, students must maintain a grade of C- (70%) or higher. Students will be disenrolled if requirements in the *Dental Assisting & Dental Hygiene Programs Policies & Procedures Manual* are not met. See DEN course syllabi and the *Dental Assisting & Dental Assisting Programs Policies & Procedures Manual* for additional academic course requirements.
- Students must complete all the courses no later than the semester they are scheduled in the *College Catalog*. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.
- The possible transfer of dental (DEN prefix) courses will be evaluated according to written College guidelines. General Education courses in the Dental programs are transferable according to the guidelines of the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. The transferability of dental (DEN prefix) courses is at the discretion of the receiving institution.
- Course substitutions must be completed prior to the start of the program.

Training in Infection Control Procedures

No student will be allowed to deliver patient services in any setting until they have been instructed in infection control (per OSHA guidelines) and have mastered material on safety and/or universal precautions with satisfactory accuracy. Following mastery of infection control skills and under faculty supervision, each student will be expected to provide services for patients with health deviations, including patients with HIV/HBV and other bloodborne/infectious diseases, as part of routine clinical/lab curriculum experiences.

Readmission/Transfer Procedure

Any student interested in applying for readmission or transfer must contact the Department Head for Dental Programs to discuss educational goals and plans for readmission/transfer. The Department Head for Dental Programs, Jodi Crowell, can be reached at (910) 938-6271 or crowellj@coastalcarolina.edu.

The student must hold at least a 2.0 GPA to be considered for readmission into the program. The full readmission policy may be found in the current *Dental Assisting & Dental Hygiene Programs Policies & Procedures Manual*.

A student may not be considered for regular admission into a program in which they are currently enrolled but must follow the readmission policy.

The decision will be made by the Readmission Selection Committee and will only be considered on a space-available basis.

The Dental Assisting curriculum prepares individuals to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatment and to function as integral members of the dental team while performing chair-side and related office and laboratory procedures.

Graduates may be eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become Certified Dental Assistants. As a Dental Assistant II, defined by the dental laws of North Carolina, graduates work in dental offices and other related areas.

The appropriate course work, under the 2026-27 College Catalog, is listed below. Course work may be subject to revision.

Coastal Carolina Community College	25	Dental Assisting
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Tuition, Fees, and Other Expenses

Expense Category	Projected Cost
Tuition and student fees	\$3,347
Uniforms	\$645
Liability insurance	\$16
Textbooks/supplies	\$1,473
Dental Assisting National Board	\$450
Vaccines/titers	\$1,982
Health exams (eye, dental, physical)	\$600
CPR course	\$120
Travel (spring and summer semesters)	\$600
Radiation badge	\$50
Clinical compliance fees (Background check, drug screen, immunization tracking)	\$123
Approximate Total	\$9,406

*Costs listed above are estimates and subject to change. The In-State tuition rate is based on \$76 per credit hour plus applicable fees. Tuition rates are determined by the North Carolina General Assembly and are subject to change at their discretion. For additional information regarding the total cost of attending Coastal, please see Financial Aid staff for information. **All costs are subject to change.***

Applicants should consider other related expenses and issues such as transportation and gas as well as child care and family responsibilities. Information regarding purchasing uniforms and textbooks, immunizations, drug screening and criminal background checks, and the immunization tracking system will be supplied at Orientation.

Financial Aid Information

Federal Aid Sources

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Apply online as soon as possible at www.studentaid.gov. Awards are made until funds are depleted.
 - You will need several documents to complete the FAFSA online.
 - 2024 federal tax returns
 - 2024 W-2s
- Financial Aid staff are available to students Monday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Students may contact the Financial Aid Office at (910) 938-6749 or finaid@coastalcarolina.edu, or visit them in the Student Center building.

State Aid Sources

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - The Human Services Office can provide assistance with applying for the WIOA scholarship. They are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Student Center. Students may contact the Human Services Office at (910) 938-6258 or humanservices@coastalcarolina.edu.
- State scholarships may be able to provide assistance with childcare, transportation, tools/equipment, and uniforms. In order to meet eligibility requirements, students must complete a FAFSA.
- Qualifying North Carolina residents may learn more about eligibility requirements for state grants and/or additional scholarship opportunities at www.CFNC.org.

College Aid Sources

- Coastal's College Foundation Scholarships
 - Scholarships are available from the College Foundation Office to Coastal students who qualify.
 - For a complete listing of College Foundation scholarships, please visit the College Foundation Office in the James Leroy Henderson, Jr. Administration Building or contact them at (910) 938-6792 or foundation@coastalcarolina.edu.
 - In order to meet eligibility requirements, students must complete a FAFSA.

MyCAA

- My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) Scholarship Program
 - Tuition assistance may be available to eligible military spouses. Scholarships help military spouses pursue licenses, certificates, certifications, or associate degrees necessary to gain employment.
 - Please visit www.coastalcarolina.edu/military/military-family-students for more details.

Dental Assisting Technical Standards

Purpose Statement: Technical Standards are provided to students to identify a specific list of the non-academic abilities and characteristics established by a program as requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 defines a qualified individual as one who meets the academic and technical standards requisites for admission or participation in an education program.

All students in Dental Assisting are expected to meet certain essential functions/technical standards which are essential for successful completion of all phases of the program and reflect industry requirements and standards. To verify a student's ability to perform these essential functions, a student *may be required to demonstrate* the following technical standards in the table below. Meeting these standards does not guarantee employment in this field upon graduation. The ability to meet the program's technical standards also does not guarantee a student's eligibility for any certification exams or successful completion of the program.

	Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard
1	Critical Thinking/ Problem-Solving Skills	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; develop care plans. Example(s) include: • Ability to sequence information, events, and activities accurately. • Ability to apply knowledge from lecture and lab skills in clinical setting. • Ability to utilize basic mathematical skills.
2	Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues. Example(s) include: • Ability to navigate personal conflicts. • Ability to accept responsibility and correction in a professional nature. • Ability to establish rapport and respectfully deliver care to diverse populations.
3	Coping Skills	Coping ability is sufficient to manage stressful situations.	Demonstrate a calm demeanor in difficult situations. Example(s) include: • Ability to refrain from reacting or responding inappropriately to ethical challenges. • Ability to maintain emotional composure and perform despite the difficulty of a situation.
4	Behavioral/ Emotional Skills	Possess emotional stability, maintain composure, accountability, rational thought, and self-control.	Remain professional, calm, and exercise restraint in changing environments. Example(s) include: • Ability to be non-reactive in response to provocative situations and personalities. • Ability to assume responsibility/accountability for one's own actions without becoming defensive. • Ability to assess a situation rationally and respond accordingly. • Ability to prevent one's personal opinions or beliefs from impacting one's patient or personal performance. • Ability to demonstrate honesty and integrity.

	Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard
5	Communication Skills	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, and document and interpret actions and patient/client responses. Example(s) include: • Ability to enunciate clearly. • Ability to comprehend directives. • Ability to transcribe correspondence. • Ability to provide clear instructions.
6	Mobility Skills	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Perform appropriate physical activities in spaces with heightened physical awareness in relation to physical surroundings. Example(s) include: • Ability to lift up to 50 pounds. • Ability to stand for prolonged periods of time (8-12 hours). • Ability to twist, bend, squat, and stoop.
7	Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	Calibrate and use equipment. Example(s) include: • Ability to perform tasks requiring fine motor skills. • Ability to assemble and handle supplies or instruments. • Ability to demonstrate manual dexterity retrieving requested supplies or instruments and passing them quickly.
8	Auditory Skills	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Listen attentively to ensure the health and safety of the clinical environment. Example(s) include: • Ability to hear patient's voice, monitor alarms, emergency signals, and auscultatory sounds. • Ability to hear the varying sounds of equipment while monitoring vital signs.
9	Visual Skills	Visual ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Watch attentively to ensure the health and safety of the clinical environment. Example(s) include: • Ability to distinguish large and small objects near and at a distance. • Ability to detect color and color intensity. • Ability to perceive depth. • Ability to see peripherally.
10	Tactile Skills	Tactile ability to perceive and respond to physical touch.	Respond appropriately to senses of touch necessary for the health and safety of the clinical environment. Example(s) include: • Ability to wear PPE appropriate for a clinical environment. • Ability to sense potential nicks from sharp objects.
11	Adaptability Skills	Possess the ability to adapt and tolerate environmental stressors.	Ability to adapt in order to perform required duties in a variety of different environments. Example(s) include: • Ability to tolerate temperature variations (hot and cold) without physical response. • Ability to demonstrate requisite skill applications in an environment where there will be exposure to biohazardous materials, hazardous chemicals, gases, radiation, bloodborne pathogens, latex, etc.

Disability Services Statement: Coastal Carolina Community College is invested in full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify, request reasonable accommodation(s), and provide written documentation in a timely manner to the Coordinator for Disability Support Services in order to determine eligibility, as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, prior to the implementation of any accommodation services. Accommodation(s) are not active until all of the Steps for Requesting Accommodations have been completed. Please visit <https://www.coastalcarolina.edu/services-and-support/disability-services/> or call (910) 938-6331 for further information about the Steps for Requesting Accommodations.

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding admission to the Dental programs, please visit the Admissions Office in the Student Center building, or contact via phone or email:

Admissions Office
(910) 938-6332
alliedhealthadmissions@coastalcarolina.edu

If you have program-specific questions about the Dental programs, please contact:

Jodi Crowell
Department Head/Instructor, Dental Programs
(910) 938-6271
crowellj@coastalcarolina.edu

Transcripts may be mailed or submitted electronically:

Coastal Carolina Community College
Attention: Admissions
444 Western Boulevard
Jacksonville, NC 28546
etranscripts@coastalcarolina.edu

Americans with Disabilities Act Support:

Coordinator for Disability Support Services
(910) 938-6331
adasupport@coastalcarolina.edu

Request for Accommodation Information

Students requesting disability accommodations must self-identify to the Coordinator for Disability Support Services. Students are required to submit current documentation of their disability to the Coordinator for Disability Support Services in order to determine eligibility prior to any implementation of accommodation services. Students requesting accommodations from the College must have a disability, as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Self-identification and providing documentation can be initiated at any time; however, the student must allow reasonable time for accommodations to be implemented.

Pregnant students requesting accommodations must self-identify to the Coordinator for Disability Support Services.

Equal Educational Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Coastal Carolina Community College's [Equal Educational Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy](#) may be reviewed on the College's Consumer Information webpage.

Appendices: Worksheets

Dental Assisting Applicant Points Worksheet – Point System A

(To be used by applicant to track course completion and points earned)

College Coursework (Point System A)			
Related Courses or Equivalent	Year	Grade	Points
BIO 106 OR one set from below: ⁶ Set 1: BIO 163 & BIO 170 Set 2: BIO 163 & BIO 175 Set 3: BIO 163 & BIO 275 Set 4: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 170 Set 5: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 175 Set 6: BIO 168, BIO 169, & BIO 275			
CIS 110			
ENG 111			
SOC 240 ³ OR PSY 150 AND SOC 210			

⁶ Biology courses taken before Fall 2022 are considered ineligible for points purposes for admission into the 2027 Dental Assisting program.

Total points for related coursework: _____

Additional Points

- A. Completion of ACA 122 Transfer and Career Success
- B. HESI A² exam scores

Total Points

Dental Assisting Applicant Points Worksheet – Point System B

(To be used by applicant to track course completion and points earned)

High School Coursework (Point System B):			
Course	Grade	+ 1 Point (Honors, AP, or IB A or B)	Points
Biology			
Chemistry/Physics OR Advanced Biology ⁷			
Algebra I OR Algebra II OR Algebra III OR Geometry OR higher-level math ⁷			
English III (11 th grade English) OR English IV (12 th grade English) ⁷			

⁷ Points will be awarded for **only one** course in each category.

For the purposes of North Carolina Common Core Integrated Math courses, the following are equivalents under Point System B: Math I = Algebra I, Math II = Geometry, Math III = Algebra II.

Total points for related coursework: _____

Additional Points

- A. Completion of Health Science or Biomedical Technology courses
- B. HESI A² exam scores

Total Points

