

Vernon College Fall 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Dental Assisting

October 8, 2025 – Century City Center

12:00PM

Joe Chat Sumner Conference Room

Members present:

Sarah Long – MSU - AHEC
Paige Rask – AHEC Community Based
Dr, Shelly Strohman – Strohman Dental
Selena Searcy – Phyllis Hiraki Dental Clinic
Melinda Lee – Children’s Dentistry of WF

Vernon College Faculty/Staff

Shani Page
Mark Holcomb
Zachary Nguyen-Moore
Karen McClure
Delilah Fowler
Madison Kretzner

Members not Present:

Tom Ostovich – Workforce Solutions

Shani Page started the meeting by welcoming the committee and began introductions. Mark Holcomb thanked the committee members for their attendance and service. Mark reviewed the purpose of the advisory committee, expressing the importance of the members expertise and service. The members ensure our college programs remain relevant on the latest advancements in the field of Dentistry. Mark asked for volunteers or nominations for vice-chair and recorder; Paige Rask volunteered for vice-chair and Dr. Shelly Strohman volunteered for recorder for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Chair: Sarah Long

Vice-Chair: Paige Rask

Recorder: Dr. Shelly Strohman

New BusinessSarah Long

A. Review program outcomes

Sarah Long asked the faculty member, Shani Page, to review the program outcomes with the committee.

Shani Page reviewed the following program outcomes.

Program outcomes

1. Demonstrate the rules, regulations, and procedures of the dental assisting profession.
2. Demonstrate solid knowledge of infection control in the dental profession.
3. Apply a working knowledge of jurisprudence and the ability to apply these policies and ethical procedures as it relates to the dental assisting profession.
4. Identify and differentiate body systems with a working knowledge of how the body works during dental procedures.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in applications of techniques, utilization of tools, and handling of instruments, patients, and all other procedures to assist the dentist.
6. Demonstrate understanding of x-ray procedures and ability to utilize x-ray equipment proficiently.

7. Application of skills in general practice dentistry, orthodontist dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and oral surgery in assisting the dentist.

Program: Dental Assisting								Credential: Certificate of Completion	
Award: Dental Assisting Certificate of Completion									
Cip: 51.0601									
LIST OF ALL COURSES REQUIRED AND OUTCOMES									
OUTCOMES							Course Number	Course Title	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
							LEAD 1100	Workforce Development with Critical Thinking	
x	x		x	x		x	DNTA 1311	Dental Science	
x	x	x	x	x		x	DNTA 1415	Chairside Assisting	
x	x		x	x		x	DNTA 1301	Dental Materials	
x	x		x	x		x	DNTA 1347	Advanced Dental Science	
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	DNTA 1205	Dental Radiology	
x	x	x	x	x		x	DNTA 1353	Dental Assisting Applications	
x	x		x	x		x	DNTA 1245	Preventive Dentistry	
x	x		x	x		x	DNTA 1241	Dental Lab Procedures	
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	DNTA 1160	Clinical	
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	DNTA 1249	Dental Radiology in the Clinic	
							7. Have a working knowledge of general practice dentistry, orthodontist dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and oral surgery.		
							6. Demonstrate understanding of x-ray procedures and ability to utilize x-ray equipment proficiently.		
							5. Demonstrate proficiency in applications of techniques, utilization of tools, and handling of instruments, patients, and all other procedures to assist dentists.		
							4. Identify and differentiate body systems with a working knowledge of how the body works during dental procedures.		
							3. Knowledge of jurisprudence and ability to apply these policies and ethical procedures as it relates to the dental assisting profession.		
							2. Demonstrate solid knowledge of infection control in the dental profession.		
1. Demonstrate the rules, regulations, and procedures of the dental assisting profession.									

1. Approve program outcomes

Sarah Long asked the committee for a motion to approve the program outcomes and matrix as presented.

Paige Rask made a motion to approve the program outcomes and matrix as presented.

Dr. Shelly Strohman seconded the motion.

The motion passed and the committee approved the program outcomes and matrix as presented.

B. Assessment methods and results

Sarah Long asked the faculty member, Shani Page, to explain in more detail the assessment methods and results. Shani Page reviewed the information below.

- Achieve an overall course average of 70% or higher (weekly assignments, quizzes, projects, exams)
- Clinicals - Completion of clinical rotation hours (timesheet logs and clinical evaluation forms completed by dentist/office)
- The following grading scale is used
 - A = 90 – 100
 - B = 80 – 90
 - C = 70 – 80
 - F = <70
- 6 students successfully completed the program

1. Approve assessment methods and results

Sarah Long asked the committee for a motion to approve the assessment methods and results as presented.

Paige Rask made a motion to approve the assessment methods and results as presented.

Dr. Shelly Strohman seconded the motion.

The motion passed and the committee approved the assessment methods as presented.

C. Workplace competency (course or exam)

Sarah Long asked the faculty member, Shani Page, to tell the committee about the workplace competency and how the students have performed on the competency.

Shani Page reviewed the information with the committee.

RDA licensure exam through the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

Program Outcome	Number of students who took the course or licensure exam	Results per student	Use of results
1. RDA Exam	6	6 passed	State reporting

1. Approval of workplace competency

Sarah Long asked if any one had recommendations from the committee, hearing none, Sarah asked for a motion to approve the workplace competency as presented.

Paige Rask made a motion to approve the workplace competency as presented.

Dr. Shelly Strohman seconded the motion.

The motion passed and the committee approved the workplace competency as presented.

D. Program Specific Accreditation Information and Requirements (if applicable)

N/A

E. Review program curriculum/courses/degree plans

Sarah Long asked the faculty member, Shani Page, to review the program curriculum/courses/degree plans with the committee.

Shani reviewed the following program curriculum/courses/degree plans. She stated that there are no changes for 2025-2026. Paige Rask ask that we continue discussion on (2) two classes a year, it would shorten students wait time when missing the yearly application deadline.

Dental Assisting, Level 1 Certificate

CIP 51.0601

Instructional Location - Century City Center

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION (Probable Completion Time -- 9 Months or 32 weeks)

Major Requirements (25 SH)

Fall I Block

DNTA 1411	Dental Science	4
DNTA 1245	Preventive Dentistry	2

Fall II Block

DNTA 1301	Dental Materials	3
DNTA 1415	Chairside Assisting	4

Spring I Block

LEAD 1100	Workforce Development with Critical Thinking	1
DNTA 1305	Dental Radiology	3
DNTA 1353	Dental Assisting Applications	3

Spring II Block

DNTA 1160	Clinical-Dental Assisting/Assistant	1
DNTA 1241	Dental Laboratory Procedures	2

1. Approve program revisions (if applicable, if no revisions skip) N/A

Sarah Long asked the committee for a motion to approve the program revisions with updates as presented.

Paige Rask made a motion to approve the program revisions with updates as presented.

Dr. Shelly Strohman seconded the motion.

The motion passed and the committee approved the program revisions with updates as presented.

2. Does the committee have any recommendations for changes 2025-2026?

Shani stated that there are no other recommendations or revisions for the program during the 2025-2026 academic year.

F. Statistics

Shani Page discussed the current program statistics with the committee. Sarah Long asked the committee for any recommendations for program statistics hearing none she moved forward.

- Program Statistics:
 - Graduates 2024-2025 (6)
 - Enrollment Summer 2024: N/A
 - Majors Fall 2025-2026: (9 females)
 - Enrollment Fall 2025: (9)

G. Local Demand/labor Market Outlook

Mark led discussion: CLNA survey discussion

1. *Committee listed students' barriers: Cost, Transportation, Child Care expense.*
2. *Committee suggestions for marketing: Have students make videos actually showing their direct path to our program "this is how I became a dental assistant at Vernon College" or a former student "where are they now" updates. Would love to see a male on the college brochure for dental assisting catering to under represented gender.*
3. *Committee suggested for extra credentials: Polishing certificate, Pit and Fissure Sealant certificate or Dental Mytrouse certificate.*
4. *Dr. Strohman stated that the local salary quote from Onet was accurate.*

Occupation	National Median Wage	State Median Wage	Local Median Wage	Current /Projected Job openings 2023-2033)	Projected Growth (2023-2033)
Dental Assistant	\$22.74.20/hr \$47,300 /annual	\$20.32/hr. 42,270/annual	\$17.09/hr \$35,540/Annual	5,600 TX	20.00%

*BLS 2024 wage data

H. Evaluation of facilities, equipment, and technology

Shani Page stated that the program purchased following items and invited the committee to tour the dental lab anytime.

New lab items purchased via Perkin's grant: digital XCP kit, curing light
New equipment donated by North Central Area Health Education Center (Sarah Long, Regional Director): scrubs for students, gloves, masks, gowns

Sarah Long asked the committee for discussion or recommendations for new equipment hearing none she moved forward.

I. Professional development of faculty

Sarah Long asked the committee to review the profession development opportunities that the faculty has taken advantage of during the year.

14 Dental CE hrs., will need to complete 11 more by end of July to renew RDH license and 27.5 faculty PD hrs.

Sarah Long asked if the committee had any further recommendations for professional development for the staff. The committee offered none, she moved forward.

J. Promotion and publicity (recruiting) for the program

Sarah Long asked the faculty, Shani Page, to elaborate on the promotion and publicity for the dental assisting program. Shani Page shared the promotions and publicity listed below, herself or students were able to attend for our community.

Participated in multiple site visits from area schools/programs. Students gave dental health education presentations to the three West Foundation first grade classes during National Children's Dental Health Month.

Sarah Long asked for any discussion or recommendations, hearing none she moved forward.

K. Serving students from special populations:

Sarah Long asked the faculty member, Shani Page, to review students from special populations. Shani informs her students of new beginnings and the PASS Center. Her program is included in the Perkins grant, that gives qualifying students up to \$250.00 per school year for uniforms, tools or other equipment required for the program. Mark Holcomb explained what Vernon College offers its students, and the federal guidelines.

Vernon College is an open-enrollment college. The Proactive Assistance for Student Services (PASS) department offers many services for documented disabilities such as but not limited to quiet testing, longer testing times, interpreters, and special equipment.

Vernon College has a program titled "New Beginnings" for students who qualify to receive transportation, childcare, and/or textbook loans. Perkins funding is also offering assistance to break down barriers such as uniform, supply, and equipment costs.

Peer to Peer mentoring, tutoring (online and in-person), resume building, student success series, and counseling are just a few of the other options/services available to students.

1. Special populations' new definitions:
 - a. Individuals with disabilities;
 - b. Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including low-income youth and adults;
 - c. Individuals preparing for nontraditional fields; 0 male/9 females ratio
 - d. Single parents, including single pregnant women;
 - e. Out-of-workforce individuals;
 - f. English learners;
 - g. Homeless individuals described in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
 - h. Youth who are in, or have aged out of, the foster care system; and
 - i. Youth with a parent who—
 - i. Is a member of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code);
 - ii. Is on active duty (as such term is defined in section 101(d) (1) of such title

Sarah Long asked if the committee had any further action, discussion or recommendations. The committee offered none.

Adjourned

Sarah Long adjourned the meeting at 12:41PM.

Recorder Signature – Dr. Shelly Strohma	Date	Next Meeting: Fall 2026
	11/17/2025	