

**COORDINATING COMMISSION
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**140 N. 8TH Street Suite 300
Lincoln Nebraska 68508**

**Telephone: (402) 471-2847
FAX: (402) 471-2886**

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
Form 92-40**

Institution Submitting Proposal:	<u>Southeast Community College</u>
Title of Program:	<u>Dental Assisting</u>
CIP Code:	<u>51.0909</u>
Organizational Unit in which Program will be located:	<u>Health Sciences Division</u>
Name of Contact Person in the event additional Information is needed:	<u>Dr. Dennis Headrick</u>
Telephone:	<u>402-323-3427</u>
Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered:	<u>Associate of Applied Science (AAS)</u>
Proposal date to initiate program:	<u>August 2019</u>
List the Location(s) where this program will be offered:	<u>Lincoln campus</u>
If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:	N/A
Date Approved by Governing Board:	_____

(Attach all documents related to this proposal upon which the Governing Board made its decision to approve the proposal.)

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature _____

I. Description and Purpose of the Proposed Program

Southeast Community College (SCC) proposes to expand its Dental Assisting Diploma program to an Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS) degree. This expansion is in response to 2017 Nebraska legislation creating the new professional categories of Licensed Dental Assistant (eligible to take Expanded Scope Courses) and Expanded Function Dental Assistant¹.

SCC began teaching the individual Expanded Scope courses for the Licensed Dental Assisting in the fall quarter of 2018. After successful completion of each Expanded Scope course, the individual must apply for a state permit to be able to offer those duties in the dental office under the supervision of a dentist. The addition of the AAS option would offer those who expand their scope of practice in Dental Assisting an advanced academic credential and an additional level of professionalization.

This program could be offered in a hybrid format with didactic content pursued online and labs completed on the Lincoln campus or in approved dental offices. This would enable working Licensed Dental Assistants to pursue the degree and make the opportunity available to those residing outside the Lincoln area.

The proposed AAS program will utilize the faculty and facilities of the existing current Dental Assisting diploma program on SCC's Lincoln campus.

Purpose of proposed program

On January 1, 2018 the revisions to the Dentistry Practice Act went into effect. The new law creates three professional categories of dental assistants in Nebraska:

- Dental Assistant – does not hold a license under the Dentistry Practice Act and may be a graduate of an accredited dental assisting program or may be trained on the job.
- Licensed Dental Assistant – a dental assistant who holds a license to practice under the Dentistry Practice Act. To practice as a licensed dental assistant one shall have (a) a high school diploma or equivalent; (b) graduated from an accredited dental assisting program, or a minimum of one thousand five hundred hours of experience as a dental assistant during the five-year period prior to the application for a license; (c) passed the examination to become a certified dental assistant administered by the Dental Assisting National Board or an equivalent examination approved by the Board of Dentistry; and (d) passed a jurisprudence examination approved by the board that is based on the Nebraska statutes, rules, and regulations governing the practice of dental assisting.
- Expanded Function Dental Assistant – a Licensed Dental Assistant who (a) has a minimum of one thousand five hundred hours of experience as a *licensed* dental assistant; (b) has successfully completed courses and examinations in expanded function dental assisting approved by the board; and (c) passed a jurisprudence examination approved by the board that is based on the Nebraska statutes, rules, and regulations governing the practice of expanded function dental assisting.

Under the revised regulations, a Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA) requires additional course work to qualify for an expanded scope of practice. Any LDA can take the Expanded Scope courses (see course descriptions below), and upon successfully completing the course and examination in that area can begin to practice with that specific expanded scope. Only those who have 1,500 hours of experience subsequent

¹ Legislative Bill 18 (2017), amending the Dentistry Practice Act, Nebraska Revised Statutes §38-1101 through §38-1152. See Appendix A.

to their licensure may take the Expanded Function courses (see course descriptions below). Upon successful completion of these courses and examination in these areas they can qualify as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant.

As SCC is providing these Expanded Scope and Expanded Function courses to the LDAs in its service area and throughout Nebraska, it makes sense to also offer those who complete these courses the option to earn a higher postsecondary credential.

Description of proposed program

The AAS degree program will be a stackable credential for those Licensed Dental Assistants who already have a diploma or equivalent in dental assisting from SCC or another ADA-CODA-accredited dental assisting program.

Graduates of an ADA-CODA-accredited dental assisting diploma or equivalent program would take a minimum of 14 additional semester credit hours (for a total of 60 semester credit hours) to complete the AAS. This would include: between two and eight credit hours in the expanded scope or expanded function dental assisting skills courses outlined in Nebraska statute; nine hours of General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) courses, and one elective. (See Table 1 for specific curriculum). The program could be completed in one semester of full-time study or be flexible to complete over multiple semesters of part-time study.

The current diploma program is accredited by the American Dental Association - Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA-CODA). No additional accreditation process will be required for the expanded AAS degree program.

Curriculum

The intent of the degree, as stated earlier, is to provide the necessary education and training for current Licensed Dental Assistants to expand their scope of practice in dental assisting or become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant, as outlined in Nebraska statute. This program expansion is targeted toward practicing dental assistants who are ready to advance in their careers. The program will have the following specific admission requirements for expanded scope/ function courses:

1. A diploma or certificate from an ADA-CODA accredited Dental Assisting program;
2. A valid license in dental assisting (LDA) from the state of Nebraska.
 - Must document 1,500 hours of experience as a Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant to be eligible for the expanded function restorative courses.
3. Current CPR/Basic Life Support certification

Table 1: Dental Assisting program curriculum

Course ID	Course Name	Class	Lab	Total Contact	Semester Credit Hour
Prerequisite - General Core Courses (16 week)					
FSDT1350	Basic Nutrition	45	0	45	3.0
PSYC1810	Intro to Psychology	45	0	45	3.0
SPCH1110	Public Speaking	45	0	45	3.0
TOTAL					9.0
Term 1 - Dental Assisting Program Core Courses - (16 week)					
DENT 1107	Dental Concepts	30	0	30	2.0
DENT 1108	Dental Sciences	45	23	68	3.5
DENT 1109	Dental Materials	30	68	98	3.5
DENT 1114	Dental Procedures 1 (8week)	15	68	83	2.5
DENT 1115	Dental Procedures 2 (8week)	23	68	91	3.0
TOTAL					14.5
Term 2 - Dental Assisting Program Core Courses - (16 week)					
DENT 1220	Oral Prevention with Specialties	30	45	75	3.0
DENT 1221	Dental Foundations	30	45	75	3.0
DENT 1313	Oral Radiography 1 (8week)	30	23	53	2.5
DENT 1413	Oral Radiography 2 (8week)	23	45	53	2.0
DENT 1314	Clinical Education 1	15	158	173	4.5
TOTAL					15.0
Term 3 - Dental Assisting Program Core Courses - (10 week)					
DENT 1410	Business Office Communication	30	23	53	2.5
DENT 1414	Clinical Education 2	23	158	181	5.0
TOTAL					7.5
Diploma in Dental Assisting --- TOTAL HOURS:					46.0
*Associate of Applied Science (AAS) - (16 week)					
Two or more of the following courses of Dental Assisting Expanded Scope/Expanded Function* Courses:					
DENT1500	Nitrous Oxide Administration	15	0	15	1.0
DENT1515	Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics	15	23	38	1.5
DENT1530	Pediatric Fixed	8	23	31	1.0
DENT15XX	Restorative 1*	23	45	70	2.5
DENT15XX	Restorative 2*	15	45	60	2.0
Plus, one course from each of the following GELO areas (three different courses—see page 81 in catalog)					
GELO #2	Written Communication	45	0	45	3.0
GELO #3	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	45	0	45	3.0
GELO #4	Global Awareness and Citizenship	45	0	45	3.0
In addition, one of the following courses below:					
HLTH1050	Dental Terminology	45	0	45	3.0
OFFT1010	Keyboarding I	45	0	45	3.0
BSAD1010	Microsoft Applications	45	0	45	3.0
Combination of the courses above to equal a MINIMUM of 60 total credit hours for AAS Degree					

Course Descriptions

Expanded Scope Courses

DENT-1500 - Nitrous Oxide Administration

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status and current Healthcare Provider CPR or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of Dentistry for licensed dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for Nitrous Oxide Administration. Expanded duties in this permit include: administration and monitoring of nitrous oxide.

DENT-1510 - Fixed Prosthodontic

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status and current Healthcare Provider CPR or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of Dentistry for licensed Dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for Fixed Prosthodontics. Expanded duties in this permit include: placement of retraction cord/material, and taking final impressions/records (including digital) for fixed prosthesis (appliances, crowns, and bridges, etc.)

DENT-1520 - Removable Prosthodontic

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status and current Healthcare Provider CPR or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of Dentistry for licensed dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for Removable Prosthodontics. Expanded duties in this permit include: taking final impressions/records (including digital) for removable prosthodontics (dentures and partials, etc.), placement of soft liners, and extra-oral adjustments to denture and partials.

DENT-1530 - Pediatric Fixed

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status and current Healthcare Provider CPR or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of Dentistry for licensed dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for Pediatric Fixed Prosthodontic. Expanded duties in this permit include; adaption and cementation of primary prefabricated crowns.

Expanded Function Courses

DENT-15XX – Restorative 1

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status; current Healthcare Provider CPR; and one year of experience as LDA; or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of dentistry for licensed dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for placing and finishing Class: I, V and VI, direct restorations (amalgam, composite or glass ionomer).

DENT-15XX - Restorative 2

Prerequisite: Proof of Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant status; current Healthcare Provider CPR; and one year of experience as LDA; or by permission. This course is to meet the structured education required by the State Board of dentistry for licensed dental assistants (LDA) seeking expanded function permit for placing and finishing Class: II, III, & IV, direct restorations (amalgam, composite or glass ionomer).

II. Review Criteria

A. Centrality to Role and Mission

Southeast Community College's mission statement is as follows:

The mission of Southeast Community College (SCC) is to empower and transform its students and the diverse communities it serves. The College provides accessible, dynamic, and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs. Student success and completion is maximized through collegiate excellence, exemplary instruction, comprehensive student support services, enrichment programs, and student-centered processes. SCC is committed to a proactive and evidence-based approach that continually assesses and responds to student, community, and employer demand for higher education.

The addition of the AAS in Dental Assisting fits well with SCC's mission to provide accessible and responsive pathways to career and technical education. The State of Nebraska—in collaboration with multiple professional organizations within the dental industry—has created new professional pathways for Dental Assistants, and SCC proposes to provide an affordable, accessible, and local pathway to fulfilling that requirement. This program responds to industry, student, and community demand.

B. Evidence of Need and Demand

1. Need for Program

The primary reason this program is needed is because of recent statutory changes creating two new professional categories for dental assistants in Nebraska: Licensed Dental Assistant and Expanded Function Dental Assistant. In order to qualify to perform expanded functions, additional education is required.

Testimony on the bill (LB 18 in 2017) indicated there was a strong need among dental practices—especially those who treat low-income patients and those in rural areas with few dentists—to be able to more efficiently treat patients by expanding the functions qualified dental assistants can perform. As Dr. Jessica Meeske of the Nebraska Dental Association testified in the Health and Human Services Committee hearing:

Because Medicaid covers nearly half the kids in our state and the demand to see more of those kids is now increasing, unfortunately the reimbursement is not. Allowing us to delegate those duties where a dentist's expertise is not needed allows us to be more efficient in how we deliver dental care. . . . [I]t does allow me to be more efficient in seeing more kids that might have an insurance plan with lower reimbursement, as opposed to crowding them out with kids that have higher reimbursing plans.²

Not only is there a need for qualified Expanded Function Dental Assistants with the additional training that will be provided through the proposed degree program, there is a growing demand for dental assistants in general in the region. Labor data provided by EMSI³ projects strong employer demand for dental assistants in the next decade. As shown in Figure 1, growth of new jobs is projected to be at 18% in

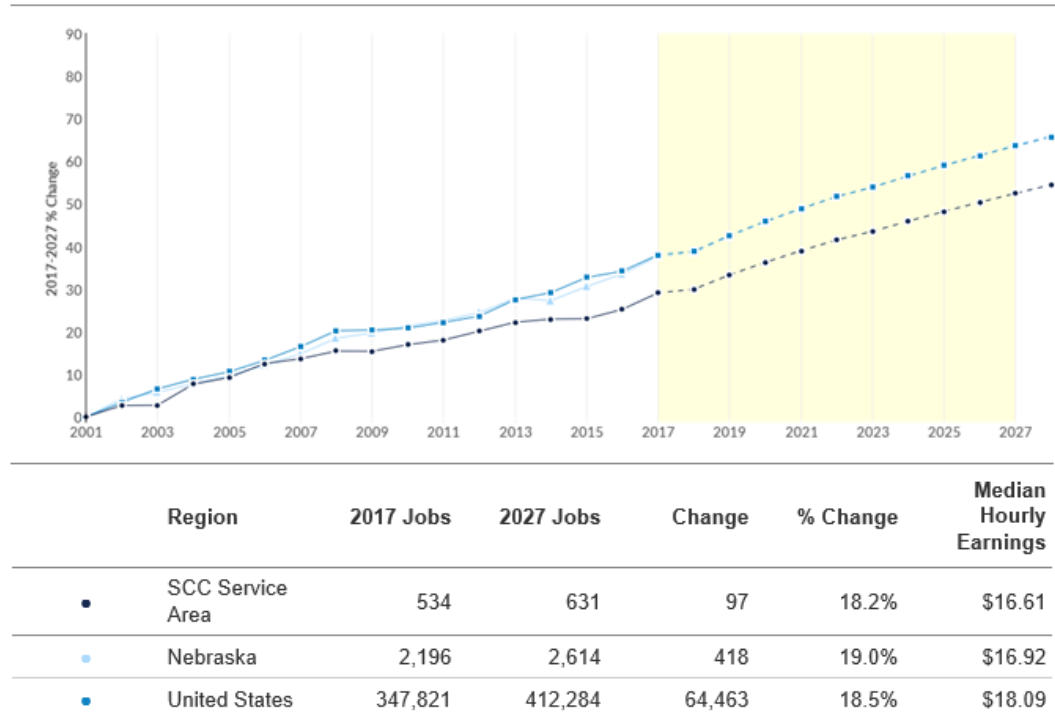
² <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/105/PDF/Transcripts/Health/2017-01-18.pdf>

³ EMSI (www.economicmodeling.org), occupational data for Dental Assistants (SOC: 31-9091).

the SCC service area and 19% in Nebraska overall. Including both new and replacement jobs between 2017 and 2027, EMSI projects an average of 303 annual openings for Dental Assistants in Nebraska, with 73 of those annual openings in the SCC service area.

Figure 1: Percent change in employment for Dental Assistants in SCC service area, compared to Nebraska and United States.

Dental Assistants - Occupation Change Summary



2. Demand for Program

The proposed program is targeted to two groups: (1) individuals who are already working as Dental Assistants and Licensed Dental Assistants, and (2) students interested in completing an AAS degree in Dental Assisting. This occupation shows strong growth trends both in the SCC service area and in Nebraska, indicating there will be a strong pool of potential applicants for the program

The students and graduates of Southeast Community College’s current diploma program in Dental Assisting provide a significant population from which to recruit students for the expanded AAS program. Figure 2 shows the quarterly enrollment patterns for the diploma program since 2013-2014. Figure 3 shows the number of graduates from the program since 2006-2007. The program would also be open to Licensed Dental Assistants who have a diploma or certificate from any accredited dental assisting program, including the four other dental assisting programs in Nebraska.

Figure 2

Unduplicated Enrollment - Dental Assisting Program

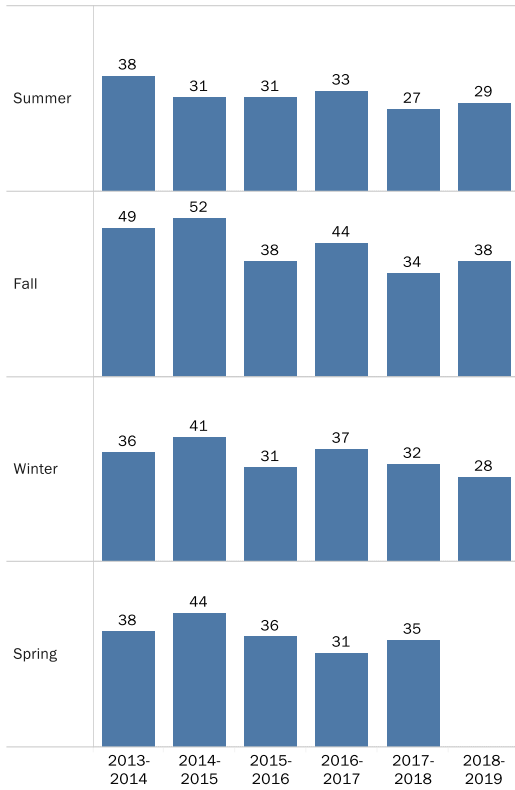
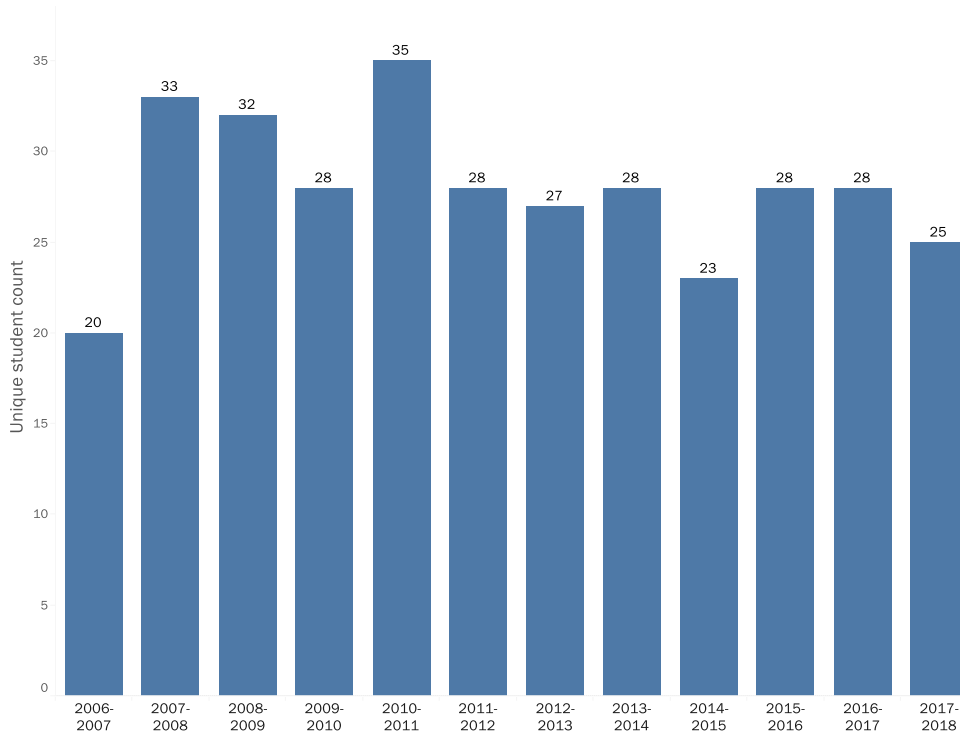


Figure 3

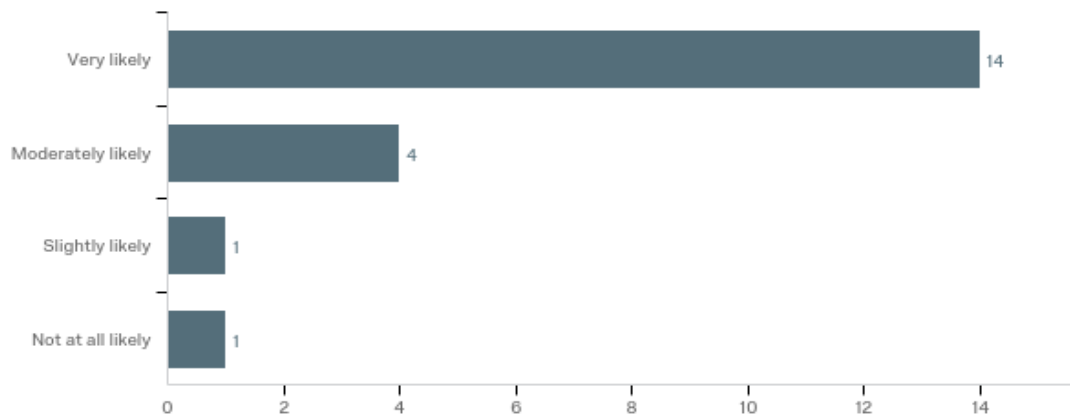
Degrees Awarded - Dental Assisting Program



To gauge demand for the expanded AAS program, Southeast Community College’s Office of Institutional Research conducted an online survey of current SCC Dental Assisting students, graduates of SCC’s Dental Assisting program, and Licensed Dental Assistants (LDAs) in Nebraska. Email invitations were sent to 414 people; 167 recipients completed all or part of the survey for a total response rate of 40 percent. Of the respondents, 12 percent were students, 69 percent were graduates, and 19 percent were LDAs.

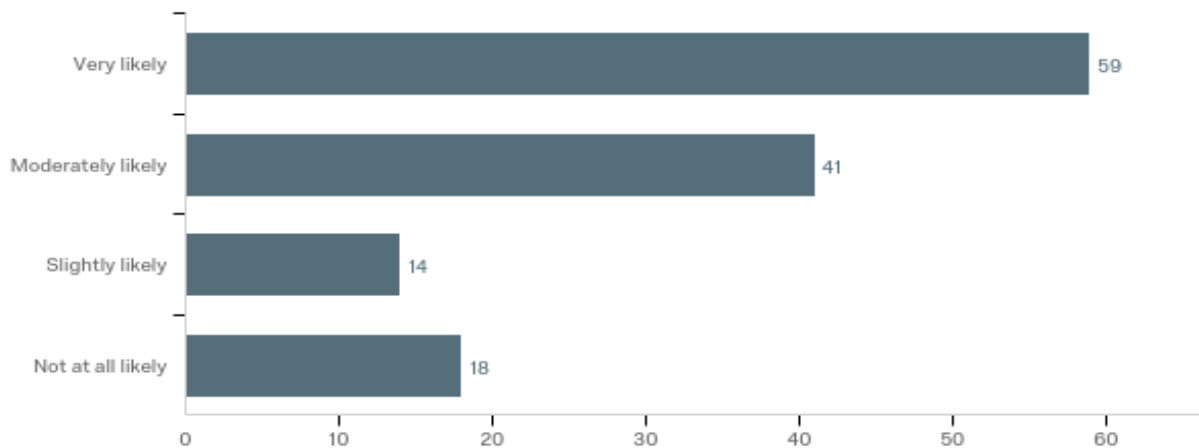
Current students were asked how likely they are to continue their education beyond the diploma to become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. As shown in Figure 4, 70 percent of respondents (n=14) answered they are *very likely* to continue their education, and an additional 20 percent (n=4) answered they are *moderately likely* to continue their education.

Figure 4: Current SCC Dental Assisting students were asked likely they are to continue their education beyond the diploma to become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant



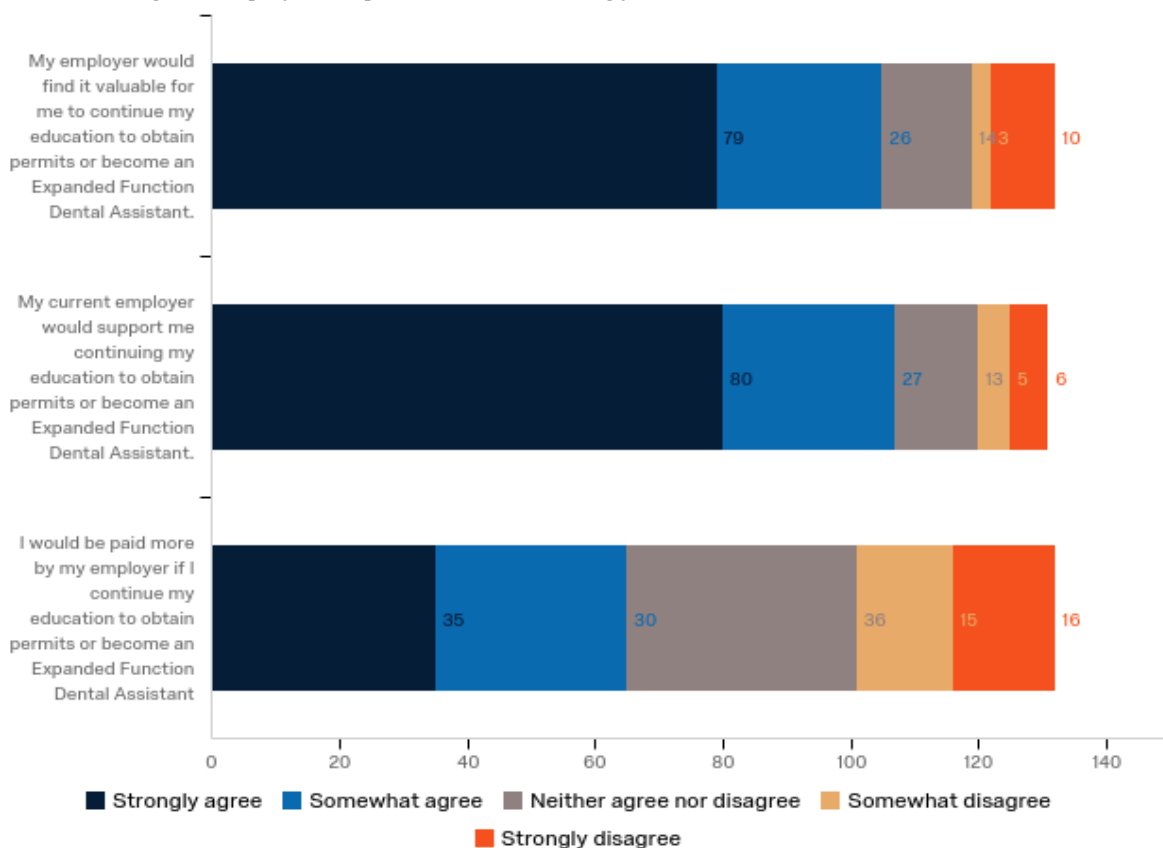
Dental Assisting program graduates and LDAs were asked how likely they would be to return to SCC to complete an AAS to become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. As shown in Figure 5, 45 percent of respondents (n=59) answered they would be *very likely* to return and continue their education, and an additional 31 percent (n=41) answered they would be *moderately likely* to do so.

Figure 5: Graduates of SCC’s Dental Assisting diploma program and Licensed Dental Assistants were asked how likely they would be to return to SCC to complete an AAS to become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant



Graduates and LDAs were also asked three questions about how much they perceived their employers would value their being able to perform expanded dental assisting functions. As shown in Figure 6, the vast majority of respondents either *strongly agreed* (60%; n=79) or *moderately agreed* (20%; n=26) that their employers would find it valuable for them to continue their education to obtain permits or become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. Likewise, the vast majority of respondents also either *strongly agreed* (61%; n=80) or *moderately agreed* (21%; n=27) that their current employer would support them continuing their education to obtain permits or become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. Fewer respondents indicated they *strongly agreed* (27%; n=35) or *moderately agreed* (23%; n=30) they would be paid more by their employer if they continued their education to obtain permits or become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. Twenty-seven (27) percent (n=36) indicated they *neither agreed nor disagreed* with the statement and 24 percent (n=31) either *somewhat disagreed* or *strongly disagreed*.

Figure 6: Graduates and LDAs were asked three questions about how much they perceived their employers would value their being able to perform expanded dental assisting functions



C. ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

1. Faculty and Staff Resources

The AAS in Dental Assisting is an expansion of the existing diploma program. The specialized expanded scope courses are already being taught to Licensed Dental Assistants. The Expanded Function Dental Assistant courses are being developed and pending board approval. The additional general education

learning outcome and elective courses required to complete the AAS degree are already being offered in other programs at the college.

No additional staff will need to be hired at this time. Existing faculty and staff members in the Dental Assisting program and the central office of the Health Sciences Division will meet all needs. If deemed necessary due to an increase in enrollment, adjuncts may be hired as needed to fulfill the growth needs.

2. Physical Facilities and Instructional Equipment

There are no additional facilities, lab space, or equipment needed for the expanded AAS degree program beyond what is currently required for the Dental Assisting diploma program and the other Health Sciences programs.

3. Instructional and Informational Resources

Library and technology resources are already in place on the 8800 O Street Lincoln Campus to support the programs currently being offered. Sufficient library staff, library resources and Information Technology resources are in place to support the expansion of the Dental Assisting program to include the expanded scope and expanded functions courses and the AAS degree. Online students will have access to SCC resources including digital library support, databases, and access to the SCC intranet.

4. Budget Projections

		Projected 3% increase each year in costs				
		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Personal Services						
Instructional Costs*		\$ 3,928	\$ 4,046	\$ 4,167	\$ 4,292	\$ 4,421
Operating Expenses						
Supplies		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Facilities						
Current classroom and lab space will be utilized		\$ -				
Projected Student Enrollment	Credit Hrs.	6	8	10	12	12
Expanded Function Courses	4	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,200	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
General Education Courses	9	\$ 5,400	\$ 7,200	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800
Work related course	3	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Tuition Generation		\$ 9,606	\$ 12,808	\$ 16,010	\$ 19,212	\$ 19,212
Tuition Rate		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Net Revenue from Tuition		\$ 2,678	\$ 5,762	\$ 8,843	\$ 11,920	\$ 11,791
*We will unitize current or adjunct faculty to meet the needs of this program						

D. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

There is no unnecessary duplication, as SCC's Dental Assisting program is the only dental assisting program in the College's 15-county service area. Presently four other institutions in Nebraska offer diploma programs in Dental Assisting⁴, three of which also offer the option of earning an associate's degree by completing additional elective and general education courses⁵. At this time, no other institutions in Nebraska are offering an AAS degree in dental assisting focusing on the additional required educational components to practice as an LDA with an expanded scope or an Expanded Function Dental Assistant.

E. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposed addition of an AAS degree in Dental Assisting focused on the educational requirements to practice as an Expanded Scope or Expanded Function Dental Assistant is consistent with Nebraska's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education. Specifically, it contributes to the following goals:

Workforce Development: Targeted Skills

The Comprehensive Statewide plan directs institutions to "provide specialized certification programs in professional, technical, and vocational fields that address regional and state needs" (pg. 3-3). As demonstrated by new professional categories created with the revision of the Dentistry Practice Act, the state legislature, governor, and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services have identified the licensing and advanced professional training of dental assistants to be necessary to provide safe, effective, and efficient dental health care to the citizens of Nebraska. The expansion of SCC's diploma program in Dental Assisting to include an optional AAS degree pathway which prepares Licensed Dental Assistants to work as Expanded Function Dental Assistants will help meet this statewide workforce need.

Adequate Healthcare

Another goal of the Statewide Comprehensive Plan is that "institutions with a role in health-care education identify and respond to the changing health-care needs of Nebraska's citizens" (pg. 3-6). According to legislative testimony⁶ the challenges for dental practices serving Medicaid patients and the lack of dentists in rural areas of Nebraska necessitate the increased professionalization and scope of practice of dental assistants. SCC's proposed AAS degree pathway in Dental Assisting contributes to this goal of meeting the state's changing healthcare needs.

⁴ Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, and Purdue University Global (Omaha).

⁵ Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, and Mid-Plains Community College

⁶ Legislative Bill 18 (2017); <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/105/PDF/Transcripts/Health/2017-01-18.pdf>