

April 21, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Jessica August and I am the Director of Dental Sciences at Portland Community College (PCC). I previously submitted testimony in opposition to HB 2996 and 3223 both on behalf of myself as well as PCC. I would like to address misinformation stated at the public hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

The Integrated Community Dental Assisting (ICDA) program offered through Portland Community College provides opportunities for students outside the Portland Metro area to enroll in the Rural Online Program. Students enrolled in the Rural Online Program are required to be employed in a dental office where hands-on assignments and experiences are completed. 100% of the students enrolled in the program are financially sponsored by a dental practice in our community, minimizing the financial burden on students. In addition, sponsors cover the costs of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exams so the dental assisting students are able to practice at the top of the scope of practice for dental assistants in Oregon.

This program prepares students for hands-on skills while providing foundational knowledge needed to be exceptional members of the dental team. All didactic course work is delivered in an online classroom to accommodate students who are unable to attend traditional “in person” courses. Please see the application below with further details related to enrollment in the ICDA Rural Online Program.

Portland Community College has been proactive in working to meet industry needs and provide options and opportunities to increase the workforce of dental assistants throughout the state. These program models are a viable solution in working to decrease the workforce shortage of dental assistants without lowering the standards of care for our patient populations needing access to quality oral health providers.

Sincerely,



Jessica August, CDA, RDH, BSDH, MSDH
Director, Dental Sciences



April 19, 2023

Dear Senator Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Jessica August and I am the Director of Dental Sciences at Portland Community College (PCC). I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of PCC in opposition to HB 2996 and HB 3223. I acknowledge the nationwide shortage of dental assistants and the impact of dental assistant shortages in Oregon. However, eliminating written exams currently required for certification of dental assistants in Oregon will lower the standards. Written exams play an important role in maintaining safety and high standards required for quality patient care.

Dental assistants are valuable members of the dental team and their work is integral to the overall health of patients. The duties performed by dental assistants require specialized knowledge and training. Dental assistants provide patient care and chairside support as dentists complete exams and often complex clinical procedures. In addition, dental assistants expose dental x-rays and perform critical infection control duties.

Written examinations required of health care providers serve as a lever for ensuring that practicing health professionals meet specific standards and continue to maintain competence in a given content area. For dental assistants, the written examination is offered by a third-party testing agency. The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is developed by content experts and represents the minimum national standards for knowledge, understanding, and patient safety expected in the dental assisting profession. Additionally, DANB exams are recognized or required in many states.

Removing written exams as proposed in HB 2996 and HB 3223 will do following:

- Put patients and providers health and safety at risk
- Lower the quality of patient care
- Devalue the dental assisting profession
- Lead to higher turnover rates and even greater workforce shortages of qualified providers

As the legislature continues to look for ways to address barriers to entry into dental careers, I would like to acknowledge the work related to HB 2979 and thank Representative Pham for introducing the amendment where stakeholders were able to find a compromise that works to expand access to dental training and careers without lowering standards. I hope we can work collaboratively toward a similar compromise on these bills.

I respectfully ask you to vote no on HB 2996 and 3223 to maintain current standards for dental assistants and keep the public safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica August".

Jessica August, CDA, RDH, BSDH, MSDH
Director, Dental Sciences

Integrated Community Dental Assisting Application

2023-2024

Program Description

A dental assistant is an important member of the dental team, who plays a critical role in providing safe, efficient and comfortable dental care for patients in a dental practice. The primary role of a dental assistant is to support the dentist during dental procedures where technical skills and communication are essential. PCC Integrated Community Dental Assisting Program (ICDA) offers a strong foundation that enables a dedicated learner to enter into a high-demand profession after only three terms.

In the ICDA program you will learn the skills you need to be a successful dental professional through comprehensive didactic course work, observation and practice in the PCC Dental Clinic and in a dental office extern ship.

The Integrated Community Dental Assisting Program is now offering the option for students outside the Portland Metro area to enroll in the Online Program. Students enrolled in the Online Program, will be required to be employed in a dental office where hands-on assignments and experience are completed.

Both ICDA's programs prepare students for hands-on skills and DANB RHS & EFDA exams, with a curriculum that has been developed to meet CODA standards. All didactic course work is delivered in an Online classroom, to accommodate students who are unable to attend traditional "in person" classroom.

TUITION

Full program: (includes Online and hands on clinical courses) **\$8,395**

Rural Online Program: (didactic Online course's only) **\$6,970**

*Tuition is due at the time of registration; Students may set up a monthly payment plan with the PCC Business Office.

For more Information about payment plans, please visit the PCC Payment Plan web-page. Financial aid is not available for non-credit programs.

Dates to Remember

Application Due:

June 30th, 2023

Program Start Date:

September 25th, 2023

Send Application Materials

Upload all required
documents to the Online
application link

*Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

ICDA Program Check Off List

Required Documents

Choose One

- Full Program**
- Online Program**

*We require the following documentation to be submitted for consideration into the program.

Do not submit original documents

- COPY of High school completion or GED certificate.
- COPY of Vaccination History. ALL proof of Immunization records must be submitted with the application to participate in the externship.
 - Hepatitis B Titer exam result that shows immunity (positive or reactive result)
 - Tuberculosis Testing (PPD or X-ray for the current year)
 - Influenza Vaccine for current year
 - MMR with second dose Measles
 - Varicella with second (post childhood) titer or immunization
 - Tetanus within last 10 years
 - COVID-19 Vaccine
- 8 hour Dental Office Observation completed with signed verification from Dentist.
- Cover letter explaining your interest, your skills and strengths as they apply to the ICDA program. In addition, please provide your understanding of how the program works, including the program requirements and expectations.
- Fill out this checklist and the registration form (Pages 2-3). **Please leave the course registration request CRN blank.** You must include a working email address, since you will be notified of acceptance by email.

Final Steps

Students **tentatively** selected for the program will be contacted by email. Students must pass and submit a background check for final program acceptance.

Please Keep in Mind

- You must create a PCC student account through pcc.edu before submitting application, and obtain PCC student ID number.
- You must be age 18 when class begins.
- Make sure you have included all requested materials before submitting your application. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Registration Form Non-Credit

Phone: 971-722-8888, option 2 Online: pcc.edu/nc Fax: 971-722-4988 Mail: PO Box 19000, Portland OR 97280

If you are new to PCC, please leave PCC ID blank, and go to PCC.EDU and sign up to become a student.

Part B: Student Information

2 PCC ID Number ("G Number")	Student Status <input type="radio"/> New PCC Student <input type="radio"/> Currently Enrolled at PCC <input type="radio"/> Previously Attended PCC	3 Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
4 Last Name	Other Names Used	
5 First Name	Middle Initial	6 Gender <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
7 Mailing Address	City	State ZIP
8 Email Address		
9 Daytime Phone Number	10 Evening Phone Number	
High School/GED – Name of School/Institution	City	State Year Graduated/Obtained

PCC is committed to affirmative action goals and would appreciate your response to the following:

Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic/Latino? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Citizen Type <input type="radio"/> U.S. Citizen <input type="radio"/> Resident Alien/Refugee/Immigrant <input type="radio"/> Other, Enter Type __	Select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself <input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="radio"/> Asian <input type="radio"/> Black or African American <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> White
Are you an Oregon resident? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Are you a veteran of the U.S. Military? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Part C: Registration Confirmation

11 My enrollment with Portland Community College will signify my consent to and acceptance of all policies and procedures governing my enrollment, including financial liability. If I fail to remit payment when due, I will promise to pay to PCC all reasonable costs for collection, including collection agency fees.	
Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)