

# SODC INSIDER

Behind Every  
Great Dentist:  
The Vital Role of  
Dental Assistants

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# THE ROOT OF THE MATTER:

## SODC DENTAL ASSISTANT - LEVEL I & II PROGRAM:

### CLINICAL COMPONENT

As part of the Dental Assistant - Level I & II Program, students will complete 255 hours of in school clinic training and an additional 80 hours of co-op placement. The 80-hour co-op placement provides students with the opportunity to work directly in a dental office, where they will further develop their practical skills, adapt to a real clinical workflow, and gain valuable experience interacting with patients and dental professionals.

Throughout both components, students are expected to demonstrate professionalism, reliability, attention to detail, and a commitment to patient-centered care. These experiences are key to preparing for a successful transition into the workforce as a competent and confident dental assistant.

During the clinic component, students will work in a simulated clinical environment where they will learn and demonstrate a wide range of essential dental assisting skills. These skills include (and are not limited to):

- Practicing Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) procedures
- Assisting with a variety of clinical dental procedures
- Managing and maintaining accurate client records
- Applying matrix systems in restorative procedures
- Handling and preparing dental materials
- Taking accurate dental impressions
- Applying anticariogenic agents
- Delivering oral hygiene instruction to patients
- Performing selective coronal polishing
- Applying pit and fissure sealants



#### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Anne B. CDAll**

Dental Assistant - Level I & II  
Theory and Clinical Instructor

Anne is a dedicated Dental Assisting Instructor with over 20 years of experience in the dental field. A proud graduate of Niagara College, she has built a diverse career as a chairside dental assistant, treatment coordinator, and office manager. These roles have given Anne a well-rounded understanding of both the clinical and administrative sides of dentistry. Her passion for education and mentoring led her to transition into teaching, where she has been an integral part of the dental assisting program since its inception. Anne takes pride in helping students build the skills and confidence they need to succeed in their careers.

# THE ROOT OF THE MATTER:

## SODC DENTAL ASSISTANT - LEVEL I & II PROGRAM: THEORY COMPONENT

For the theory aspect of the Dental Assistant - Level I & II Program, we learn about many subjects to prepare a student to be a successful, organized, and confident member of the dental team.

We have comprehensive learning modules that test your ability to learn. These modules are paired with quizzes, assignments, discussion boards, and many other online platforms to help you understand the material.

A few subjects we teach are: dental sciences, anatomy & physiology, dental charting, oral pathology, microbiology and infection control, radiation, dental materials, pharmacology, practise management.

We also teach you how to be an ethical and professional DA who has a good attitude. You can take these skills to become a practise manager, treatment coordinator, dental sales, or even work in insurance. The sky is the limit once you graduate and have your certificate.

There are WHMIS, CPR and HARP certifications to complete as well which you can take with you on your journey once you start working in as little as a year after this course is completed.

There is an 80-hour co-op program at the end of the course. Many students love this aspect because most get a job offer after the co-op placement at that same office.



### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Nadia M.** CDA II, CDTC, B. Ed  
Dental Assistant - Level I & II Theory Instructor

Nadia is a two-time graduate at George Brown College. (Dental Assisting & Treatment coordinating). York University graduate in Psychology, & Brock University graduate in Adult Education. She strives to never stop learning. It brings her joy to teach students. Nadia has almost 15 years' experience in assisting all specialties of dentistry. Her experience has thoroughly prepared her to be your future dental assisting instructor!

Dental assisting is in such high demand right now. You could not pick a better time to jump into something new, a second career, a positive change in your life. Nadia's goal is to do everything possible to support you in your educational dental assisting journey no matter what type of learner you are.

# Beyond the OP

**Q: How do dental assistants contribute to the overall efficiency of your dental office?**

A: Dental assistants play a very important role—especially in clinical settings. When a dental assistant is truly skilled, the efficiency “at the back” becomes exceptional. Simply put, a good dental assistant prepares the patient, gathers all the necessary data, and completes the preliminary steps before the dentist even enters the room. By the time the dentist comes in, almost everything is already taken care of. Another crucial aspect is synchronization. When a dental assistant is fully in sync with the dentist, the dentist’s workflow becomes smooth, effortless, and almost heavenly.

**Q: How do you see the role of dental assistants evolving in the future of dentistry?**

A: In the past, dental assistants were often viewed as simply “suctioning spit.” But the role has evolved tremendously. Their expanded scope of practice now allows them to do so much more. As I mentioned earlier, they can handle many of the preliminary tasks related to areas like orthodontics, airway assessments, and other preparatory procedures. This makes their contribution extremely significant. Even many tasks that hygienists perform can now be handled by well-trained dental assistants. With this level of responsibility, skill, and clinical value, dental assistants absolutely deserve compensation that reflects their role—earning \$40 an hour is reasonable when they are performing at that advanced level.

**Q: Is there anything you’d like readers – especially students – to know about the importance of dental assistants in healthcare?**

A: Today, dental assistants—and dental professionals in general—play an increasingly significant role in people’s health. Especially now that we understand how closely breathing and airway health fall within the scope of dentistry. As a dental assistant, you’re not just supporting the practice—you’re stepping into a pathway that can lead to much bigger opportunities. Dental assistants are already capable of doing so much. That’s why I often say I’m willing to pay a highly skilled dental assistant at the same level as a dental hygienist. And when you look at the career progression—working alongside restorative, orthopedic, or airway-focused hygienists—you see that those roles typically earn even more. But the key point is this: dental assisting is an entry-level position with tremendous upward mobility. It’s the starting point for those who want to grow into roles such as a dental hygienist and a restorative dental hygienist.



Dr. Roland P. Estrabillo, DDS  
Dean and President

**THANK YOU TO ALL FOR JOINING US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE! CONTACT US FOR OUR NEXT EVENT.**



Interested in learning more about the Dental Assistant - Level I & II Program offered at SODC? Connect with us by email at [programinfo@sodentalcollege.com](mailto:programinfo@sodentalcollege.com)



# THE TOOTH TRUTH FILES



*Life at Southern Ontario Dental College*

## Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am a dental student with educational background in Biotechnology and Biochemistry. I am very passionate about working with people of different ethnicity and background. Becoming a dental assistant feels like a perfect path for me to fulfill my dream

## What has been your experience so far in the Dental Assistant - Level I & II Program?

So far, my experience in this program is very positive and encouraging. I am enjoying every moment with my class fellows and professor, and especially an opportunity to learn something new everyday

## Is there anything you are looking forward in achieving in this program?

My purpose in this program is to build a solid grip on dental knowledge while keeping up good grades in all courses. I am also interested to explore more about dental field so I can get confident and prepare myself and for practical life after graduation



## STUDY TIP OF THE MONTH

**Active learning encourages you to "do things and think about what you are doing."**

Bringing active learning into your study routine can completely change the way you learn, making it more meaningful and enjoyable. This involves jumping into discussions, tackling problems, working together on projects, and putting ideas into practice. Activities like think-pair-share, case studies, and group conversations are great ways to strengthen your understanding.

**Kim L. BA, RDH**

Dental Hygiene Theory & Clinical Instructor

## EVENTS AT SODC

DECEMBER 19 - END OF TERM 2 AND 4

DECEMBER 22-JAN 2 - WINTER BREAK

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 26 - BOXING DAY



★ **Your Feedback Matters** ★

If you had a positive experience at Southern Ontario Dental College, please consider leaving a Google review. It helps us improve and reach more future professionals.