

DENTAL ASSISTING, Certificate - 3200

Health & Public Service Department

CIP Code: 51.0601

The Dental Assisting curriculum prepares individuals to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatments and to function as an integral member of the dental team while performing chairside and other related office and laboratory procedures. It also designed to prepare students for employment as a dental assistant and to take the Dental Assisting National Board examination in order to achieve the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) designation. Students are able to recognize the legal provisions that are pertinent to Pennsylvania Dental Law which regulate the functions a dental auxiliary may perform. Only those procedures legally permitted are taught to clinical competence. All other procedures are taught to laboratory competence. Students are able to spend a total of 320-hours working in a variety of dental office settings where they can be exposed to all aspects of the dental practice. To be eligible for the national examination, individuals must graduate from an accredited institution and have a current registration in CPR. The clinical program is only available at the Harrisburg Campus.

Selective Program: Entry into this program is not guaranteed with admission to the College; specific admissions criteria must be met. Please see the Health Careers website (www.hacc.edu/healthcareers), email at start@hacc.edu.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program find employment as chairside assistants in a variety of dental offices: examples include, general practice, orthodontics, periodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatrics, and endodontics. Graduates may also secure positions in dental insurance, as a dental supply representative, and as a laboratory technician. (**SOC Code: 31-9091 Dental Assistants**)

Competency Profile

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Accurately collect diagnostic and treatment data and record the information into a dental chart/record
- Effectively perform infection control and hazard control protocols
- Communicate professionally and effectively with patients, employers and colleagues
- Perform basic chairside skills needed in a general or specialty dental office
- Perform basic supportive, laboratory, and administrative procedures required for various dental environments
- Correctly expose, process, and mount radiographs
- Perform procedures within the legal and ethical frameworks of the dental assisting profession

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (TOTAL CREDITS = 39)

General Education		Major Requirements		Other Required Courses	
COMM 101 Effective Speaking	3	DA 170 Dental Assisting Pre-Clinic	4	BIOL 111 Intro to Human Biology (or)	3
		DA 171 Dental Assistant I	4	BIOL 121 Anatomy & Physiology I	(4)
		DA 172 Dental Materials	4		
		DA 173 Dental Radiology I	4		
		DA 175 Oral Anatomy	3		
		DA 177 Dental Sciences	3		
		DA 178 Dental Clinical Experience	4		
		DA 179 Clinical Dental Assisting	2		
		DA 180 Dental Office Practice	3		
		DA 181 Preventive Dentistry	2		
			33		

Note: A grade of C or higher is required for BIOL 111 or 121; COMM 101; and all of the DA courses.

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Part-time students can complete this program by taking one or more courses each semester.

Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I	
BIOL 111 or 121	3 or 4	COMM 101	3
DA 170	4	DA 172	4
DA 171	4	DA 177	3
DA 173	4	DA 178	4
DA 175	3	DA 179	2
DA 181	2	DA 180	3

Graduates of this certificate can then enroll into the 320A – Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) program and complete additional coursework for a Certificate of Completion:

- DA 252 – Expanded Functions I (4 credits)
- DA 253 – Expanded Functions II (2-credits)