

Dental Assisting

dental.chemeketa.edu

The Dental Assisting program offers technical training to people who want to work in dental offices and clinics. The program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678. The telephone number is 312.440.2500. The Web site is www.ada.org.

The program includes instruction in assisting dentists in private offices or dental health clinics plus clinical and field trip experiences. Typical duties of dental assistants include preparing patients for treatment, mixing dental materials, taking impressions, sterilization and infection control, exposing and developing radiographs, assisting with clinical procedures, expanded functions, and inventory control. Laboratory duties include pouring study models of teeth and fabrication of custom trays, temporary crowns, and small appliances. As office manager, a dental assistant acts as a receptionist, schedules appointments, keeps accounts and records, prepares statements and insurance billings, and is responsible for the general appearance of an office.

Program outcomes

Students completing the certificate will:

- Perform basic and expanded chairside functions to facilitate the completion of restorative and advanced operative procedures.
- Manipulate dental materials to support chairside and laboratory procedures.
- Perform basic office procedures necessary to assist in managing a dental practice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in exposing, processing, and mounting dental radiographs.
- Practice professional behaviors as applied to the workplace environment.
- Manage asepsis, infection control, and hazard control protocol to promote a safe work environment.

Getting started

This program has special admission requirements and enrollment limits. The first step to entering this program is to take part in an assessment process, which includes taking the college's free placement test and meeting with Counseling and Career Services staff. You may need to complete pre-program courses. Then, your advisor will help you develop an individualized program of study, which may include one or more of the following:

BI060	Basic Science for Dental Assistants	3
CA121A	Keyboarding A (if less than 25 wpm).....	1
CIS101	Introduction to Microcomputer Applications	3
MTH060	Introductory Algebra+	4
PSY101	Psychology of Human Relations+ (or higher)	3
RDI15	Academic Thinking and Reading (or higher)	3
SP111	Fundamentals of Public Speaking.....	3
SSP112	Effective Learning (recommended).....	3
WR121	English Composition—Exposition+	3

If you have questions about the requirements, call Counseling and Career Services at 503.399.5120 or 503.399.5058. Failure to be assessed may delay your entry into program classes.

For admission to the program, an application is required. This is a separate step from the testing and assessment steps. Applications are available in Counseling and Career Services, Admissions, program offices, and the Chemeketa website (www.chemeketa.edu).

To enroll, you must have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Students are required to submit a copy of their current CPR card and a completed physical exam form and immunizations prior to fall registration. You must also pass a criminal background check and possibly a drug test. Successful completion of the Dental Assisting program requires that you earn a grade of "C" or better in all courses. As a graduate, you are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board examinations, including infection control, general chairside, and radiation health and safety.

Dental Assisting Certificate of Completion

In addition to tuition, estimated costs for students who complete the entire program listed below are books, \$330; lab fees, \$317; student services fee, \$23.50; universal fee, \$282; uniform and shoes, \$250; exam fees, \$500; dental kit, \$480; transportation fees, \$200; physical examination/immunizations, \$300; criminal background check, \$25; optional: professional membership fee, \$35. Contact the Financial Aid Office at 503.399.5018 to find out if you qualify for help with these costs. Students are responsible for costs related to spring practicum travel.

You may earn a Certificate of Completion by successfully completing the 47 required credit hours with a grade of "C" or better in all courses:

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Term 1		
DEN150	Dental Sciences	3
DEN151	Introductory Concepts in Dental Assisting.....	3
DEN153	Dental Materials 1	3
DEN154	Preventive Dentistry	1
DEN156	Dental Anatomy.....	4
DEN165	Dental Office Emergency Management.....	1
Term 2		
DEN160	Dental Specialties	3
DEN161	Dental Assisting Practicum 1	3
DEN162	Intermediate Clinical Skills	2
DEN163	Dental Materials 2.....	3
DEN164	Dental Radiology 1	3
DEN170	Dental Office Management.....	2
Term 3		
DEN171	Dental Assisting Practicum 2.....	9
DEN172	Expanded Functions.....	3
DEN174	Dental Radiology 2	2
DEN180	Dental Assisting Seminar	2

+Meets related instruction requirement

