DENTAL ASSISTING

About the Program

Registered Dental Assisting Programs are designed to instruct women and men with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform as dental health care paraprofessionals. Students are taught to assist in all phases of general dentistry and dental specialties including prosthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, and pediatric dentistry. Through the Registered Dental Assisting Program students will be taught to perform in expanded functions, trained and licensed in taking dental x-rays, certified in coronal polishing and pit and fissure sealants. The preventive, restorative, business, and employment aspects of dental assisting are also included.

Upon completion of the Program students will be eligible to take the California State Board Examination for licensure as a Registered Dental Assistant (R.D.A.) and the Dental Assisting National Board Certification (C.D.A.).

The Registered Dental Assisting Program at San José City College has full accreditation status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and is approved by the Dental Board of California.

Students are admitted to the program in the fall and spring semester. Advisory Level 2 Basic Language Skills are critical for entry into DENT 151, DENT 152, DENT 153, DENT 154, DENT 155 and DENT 156 as well as all other Dental Assisting courses. It is recommended that students planning to enter the program take the placement test as early as possible to determine their level. Those needing to improve their language skills may do so in courses offered by the college prior to admissions to the program.

Costs of uniforms, books, safety items, and miscellaneous supplies are estimated at $1,000-$1,500 for the 11 months of the program. Costs are spread out over the 11 months. Approximately $600 is needed at the start of the program.

Students develop laboratory skills in role-playing situations with mannequins on campus and are assigned to dental offices in the community to develop clinical experience and receive training in a professional working environment. Students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical facilities. Students are required to work 120 hours full time during the Summer Internship rotation. Students should have current certification in C.P.R., provide proof of a Negative TB Test as well as current vaccinations Hepatitis B before entering the second semester.

Career Options

- Registered Dental Assistant Extended Functions (R.D.A.E.F.)
- Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)
- Registered Dental Hygienist Alternative Practice (RDHAP)
- Dental Laboratory Technician
- Dental X-Ray Technician
- Dental Assisting Instructor
- Dental Officer Manager
- Dental Sedation Assistant (DSA)
- Orthodontic Assistant

Certificates/Degrees

- Certificate of Achievement – Level 3
- AS Degree

Certificate/Degree Requirements

A student in the Dental Assisting Program must enroll full time in the major classes. A student who meets the certificate requirements is eligible for the R.D.A. and C.D.A. examinations. Prior to, or after finishing the major classes, the student may complete the General Education requirements for the AS Degree. A grade of "C" or better is required in all major, certificate and major elective courses. An advanced course in the major must be taken at San José City College.

For additional information, see a counselor, visit the Career/Transfer Center, or contact the following:

Dental Assisting Department	(408) 288-3133
Business and Workforce Development Division	(408) 288-3131

Associate Degree

- Dental Assisting - Associate in Science (https://catalog.sjcc.edu/degrees-certificates/dental-assisting/dental-assisting-associate-science/)

Certificate

- Dental Assisting - Certificate of Achievement Level 3 (https://catalog.sjcc.edu/degrees-certificates/dental-assisting/dental-assisting-certificate-achievement-level-3/)