

DENTAL ASSISTING - ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

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 Jose 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, 152, 153, 154, 155 and 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.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate entry level dental assisting skills that are clinically acceptable in order to work in the field of dentistry assisting during patient care while congruently preparing students for state and national licensure examinations.
- Demonstrate competence of the knowledge and skills required to perform a variety of chair side skills during comprehensive patient care and treatment.
- Analyze and follow mandated and prudent techniques in the prevention of the transmission of diseases through accurate detailed execution of infection control procedures, blood-borne pathogen standards, standard precautions, standard operating procedures, engineering controls and safe work practices.
- Communicate effectively including reading, writing, speaking and listening.

- Demonstrate patient management during patient care by phone or computer interaction with patients.
- Practice communication techniques to establish professional working relationships, team work and better dental office working environment.
- Analyze problems using evidence and sound reasoning to make decisions.
- Discriminate, organize and execute assisting the dentist and/or hygienist during different dental procedures.
- Develop systems to standardize dental care, infection control procedures, equipment and instrument maintenance while complying with all agencies' recommendation, laws and regulations.
- Display and deliver patient care to diverse, socio-economic backgrounds, disabilities, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, ethnicities, nationalities and differences as it pertains to working as a dental health paraprofessional, patient advocate, and employee in the dental office setting.
- Demonstrate ability to exercise professional and ethical responsibility as a member of the dental profession.
- Demonstrate working within the laws outlined in the state Dental Practice Act and understand the legal and ethical consequences of performing illegal duties.
- Demonstrate ethics by reporting all illegal duties to the Dental Board of California or OSHA, if appropriate.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in the area of business management, charting, treatment planning/ recording, filing, billing, and digital radiography with the use of computer systems, Software and digital sensors/scanners.
- Participate in volunteering for a Community Health Projects where students demonstrate creativity, oral communication, research skills, public speaking skills and knowledge of preventive dental health methods used to prevent dental disease to a group in the community.

Major Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
DENT 151	Dental Anatomy and Vital Signs ¹	3
DENT 152	Beginning Dental Assisting and Infection Control	3
DENT 153	Preventive Dentistry	1.5
DENT 154	Radiation Safety 1	3
DENT 155	Basic Chairside Assisting	3
DENT 156	Assisting With Prosthodontics and Laboratory Procedures	1.5
DENT 161	Radiation Safety 2 Adn Coronal Polishing	3
DENT 162	Intermediate Dental Assisting 2	1.5
DENT 163	Dental Specialties	3
DENT 164	Dental Office Administration	1
DENT 165	Advanced Dental Assisting 1	1
DENT 171	Clinical Dental Assisting 1	2.5
DENT 172	Clinical Dental Assisting 2	2.5
DENT 173	Clinical Dental Assisting 3	2.5
Total Units		32

A.S. Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		32
General Electives (as needed to reach 60)		3.5
General Education Requirements		24
Physical Activity		1
Total Units		60.5

¹ Course meets the A.S. degree lab science general education requirement for the Dental Assisting major only and cannot be used to meet the lab science general education requirement for any other major.