

Dental Assistant

Dental assistants play an important role in the dental office: they make patients feel more at ease in the chair and help the dentist provide relief to those with painful dental conditions. They work alongside dentists, assisting during exams and treatments, providing dentists with proper instruments and materials.

In many dental offices, Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs) perform clerical and laboratory duties, as well. They help prepare materials for making impressions and restorations, expose radiographs and process dental X-ray film as directed by the dentist.



Trusted. Respected. Preferred.

Dental Assistant Course Outline

What You Will Learn

Pima Medical Institute teaches a wide span of job skills that ensure your success in your career as a dental assistant. Our accredited dental assistant program will train you in chairside assisting, radiography, front office and more.

Job Outlook

Choosing a career as a dental assistant is a smart decision, since entry-level dental professionals are currently in high demand. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dental assistants is projected to grow 18 percent through 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.[†]

Employment

Almost all jobs for Certified Dental Assistants are in the offices of dentists. Dental assistants work in a well-lit, clean environment. About half of dental assistants have a 35- to 40-hour workweek, which may include work on Saturdays or evenings.

Certification

Most states regulate the duties that dental assistants are allowed to perform through licensure, registration or certification. Dental Assistant Certification is an acknowledgment of a dental assistant's qualifications and professional competence and may be an asset when seeking employment. Contact your state to learn more about certification requirements.

[†]Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Dental Assistants, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm>

Career Prep Sequence

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CSK 100	Study Skills*	15			1.0
CAT 150	Anatomy, Physiology, and Terminology*	55			3.5
CCB 100	Computer Basics*		15		0.5
CMF 95	Math Fundamentals*	20			1.0
CHS 100	CPR & First Aid*	10	5		0.5
Career Prep Sequence Total		100	20		6.5

*Successful completion of CSK 100, CAT 150, CCB 100, CMF 95, and CHS 100 is required either online or on-ground prior to externship.

Professional Sequence I

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 120	Dental Anatomy and Pathology	30			2.0
DEN 100	Fundamentals of Dentistry	30	15		2.5
DEN 105	Dental Office Administration	15	15		1.5
DEN 130	Dental Pharmacology	15			1.0
Professional Sequence I Total		90	30		7.0

Professional Sequence II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 170	Clinical Dental Procedures	15	75		3.5
DEN 175	Dental Equipment Use and Care	15	15		1.5
Professional Sequence II Total		30	90		5.0

Professional Sequence III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 160	Dental Radiography	30	70		4.0
DEN 165	Dental Materials	5	15		0.5
Professional Sequence III Total		35	85		4.5

Externship

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 250	Externship			240	5.0
Externship Total				240	5.0
PROGRAM TOTALS		255	225	240	28.0



- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services