

# 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, dental assistants 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

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
<b>Career Prep Sequence Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>6.5</b>
*Successful completion of CSK 100, CAT 150, CCB 100, CMF 95, and CHS 100 is required prior to externship.					
Professional Sequence I					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 101	Anatomy/Pathology of the Head, Neck, and Oral Cavity	15			1.0
DEN 114	Fundamentals of Dentistry	15			1.0
DEN 124	Principles of Dental Office Administration	15			1.0
DEN 134	Dental Therapeutics and Emergency Procedures	15			1.0
DEN 140	Sequence I Administrative and Clinical Applications		60		2.0
<b>Professional Sequence I Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>6.0</b>
Professional Sequence II					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 180	Dental Equipment and Materials	15			1.0
DEN 185	Chairside Assisting and Clinical Procedures	45			3.0
DEN 190	Sequence II Clinical Applications		60		2.0
<b>Professional Sequence II Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>6.0</b>
Professional Sequence III					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 200	Charting Essentials	15			1.0
DEN 205	Dental Radiography	45			3.0
DEN 210	Sequence III Clinical Applications		60		2.0
<b>Professional Sequence III Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>6.0</b>
Externship					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 250	Externship			240	5.0
<b>Externship Total</b>				<b>240</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Program Totals</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>29.5</b>

# 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 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations. The aging population and ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to increase the demand for preventive dental services.†

## Employment

Almost all jobs for 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. These are acknowledgments 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, Dental Assistants, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm> (visited December 18, 2021).



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