

# 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

## Professional Sequence I

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 103	Dental Radiography I	10	35		1.5
DEN 104	Fundamentals of Dentistry I	19			1.0
DEN 109	Clinical Dental Procedures I	30	30		3.0
Professional Sequence I Total		59	65		5.5

## Professional Sequence II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 113	Dental Office Administration	15			1.0
DEN 125	Fundamentals of Dentistry II	15			1.0
DEN 129	Clinical Dental Procedures II	20	74		3.5
Professional Sequence II Total		50	74		5.5

## Professional Sequence III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 123	Dental Radiography II	10	35		1.5
DEN 136	Microbiology and Dental Pharmacology	20	14		1.5
DEN 144	Fundamentals of Dentistry III	30	15		2.5
Professional Sequence III Total		60	64		5.5

## Professional Sequence IV

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 143	Dental Radiography III	10	35		1.5
DEN 154	Fundamentals of Dentistry IV	15			1.0
DEN 149	Chairside Assisting	30	34		3.0
Professional Sequence IV Total		55	69		5.5

## Professional Sequence V

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 128	Clinical Dental Procedures III	15	30		2.0
DEN 164	Fundamentals of Dentistry V	15	4		1.0
DEN 152	Dental Materials	30	30		3.0
Professional Sequence V Total		60	64		6.0

## Externship

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
DEN 201	Externship			180	4.0
Externship Total				180	4.0
Program Totals		284	336	180	32.0

# 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 8 percent from 2023 to 2033, 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.<sup>†</sup>

## 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.

<sup>†</sup>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 January 11, 2025).



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