

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 |
| Career Prep Sequence Total | | 100 | 20 | | 6.5 |

*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 |
| Professional Sequence I Total | | 60 | 60 | | 6.0 |

| 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 |
| Professional Sequence II Total | | 60 | 60 | | 6.0 |

| 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 |
| Professional Sequence III Total | | 60 | 60 | | 6.0 |

| Externship | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|-----|------------|------------|
| Course # | Course | Theory | Lab | Extern | Credits |
| DEN 250 | Externship | | | 240 | 5.0 |
| Externship Total | | | | 240 | 5.0 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Program Totals | | 280 | 200 | 240 | 29.5 |
|-----------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|

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.†

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 January 11, 2025).



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