

Dental Assistant

Diploma Program

Contact Hours: 800

Semester Credits: 26

Instructional Weeks – Full Time: 32

Average Time to Complete – Full Time: 8 Months

Program Overview

The Dental Assistant is a valuable member of the dental healthcare team and performs many services on behalf of the dentist. The Dental Assistant's responsibilities may include preparing patients for procedures, maintaining treatment records, exposing and processing dental x-rays, reviewing oral hygiene and postoperative care instructions, performing laboratory work, and managing such essential functions as maintaining inventory, infection control, and OSHA compliance.

Program Purpose

Upon completion of the Dental Assistant program, the student will possess the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to perform efficiently in a professional capacity. This program includes courses covering business administration skills, laboratory procedures, patient psychology, and communication needed to function successfully in an entry-level position. Students will also be eligible to take the written Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam of the Dental Assisting National Board prior to entering externship for x-ray certification. Registration and certification requirements for taking and passing these examinations are not controlled by Concorde, but by outside agencies, and are subject to change by the agency without notice. Therefore, Concorde cannot guarantee that graduates will be eligible to take these exams, at all or at any specific time, regardless of their eligibility status upon enrollment.

Skills Proficiency

Students must be able to perform certain skills in order to work as a Dental Assistant. These skills are learned in the clinical (lab) portion of the program. The lab portion of the program involves the practical application of theory. All lab activities and competencies are demonstrated first by the instructor; then students practice the skill on typodonts and/or patients as appropriate before being evaluated and graded by the instructor. Hands-on instruction, using the actual dental instruments and equipment, allows for facilitation of transferring theory to practical experience. Students will perform certain procedures on each other as well as on typodonts. All students must take and pass clinical competency skills before being released to externship.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, the student will be eligible to:

- Perform chairside dental assisting techniques allowed under the rules of the Oregon Board of Dentistry.
- Utilize proper sterilization techniques and infection control procedures as required by OSHA.
- Advise patients on dental care as directed by the dentist.
- Perform administrative front office duties.
- Utilize principles of dental radiology to position, expose, process, and mount dental radiographs after certification.
- Respond to medical emergencies, including basic life support.

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Externship Hours	Semester Credit Hours
CPSO1011	Career Path Success A	15	0	0	0.5
CPSO1012	Career Path Success B	15	0	0	0.5
CPSO1013	Career Path Success C	15			0.5

CPSO1014	Career Path Success D	15			0.5
CPSO1015	Career Path Success E	15	0	0	0.5
CPSO1016	Career Path Success F	15			0.5
DNTA1331	Introduction to Dental Assisting and Dental Terminology	40	40		3
DNTA1333	Dental Specialties	40	40		3
DNTA1335	Materials and Procedures	40	40		3
DNTA1337	Patient Care and Management	40	40		3
DNTA1339	Diagnostics and Orthodontics	40	40		3
DNTA1341	Dental Radiology	40	40		3
DNTA1201	Externship I	0	0	115	2.5
DNTA1202	Externship II	0	0	115	2.5
	Subtotal	330	240	230	26

*These courses are offered online.

**A portion of these courses are offered online.

This applies to all students starting on or after February 12, 2024

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours (Ground/Online)	Lab Hours (Ground/Online)	Clinical Hours (Ground/Online)	Semester Credit Hours
DNTA1324	Infection Control	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1354	Dental Specialties	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1364	Materials & Instruments	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1374	Business Operations and Emergencies	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1384	Preventive Dentistry	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1394	Radiation Safety	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1201	Externship I	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
DNTA1202	Externship II	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
	Subtotal	330 (48/282)	240 (192/48)	230 (160/70)	26