

Dental Assisting

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Dental Assisting class is a one-year program, with the option of a second year advanced class, established to provide students, both men and women, with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required by the dental profession to work in a dental environment.

The program will teach students the skills necessary to become a registered dental assistant, hygiene assistant, dental sterilization technician, entry level lab technician, and/or front office receptionist. Over 50% of the instruction in this program is devoted to hands-on experience in the on-site dental clinic. The remaining portion of the instruction will be devoted to building professionalism skills, traditional chairside dental assisting duties, dental x-rays, dental materials, terminology, safety issues, and career development. Students completing the dental program will have entry level skills in dental assisting and will be encouraged to further their training at a post-secondary institution or dental environment.

The second year advanced program will take the basic skills learned in the first year and learn more in depth specialty procedures. This program will have on-site clinics and hands-on with materials with numerous opportunities to build on the professional skills.

STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM WILL LEARN:

- ◆ Professionalism Skills
 - ◆ Communication
 - ◆ Interpersonal relationship skills with patients, co-workers, and dentists
 - ◆ Student and group leadership
- ◆ Chairside dental assisting skills
 - ◆ Silver and tooth colored fillings (first year)
 - ◆ Tooth removal (first year)
 - ◆ Root Canal Therapy (second year)
 - ◆ Temporary fillings and temporary crowns (second year)
- ◆ Front office reception skills
- ◆ Dental laboratory techniques
 - ◆ Impressions
 - ◆ Models
 - ◆ Teeth whitening trays
- ◆ Dental sterilization and disinfection procedures
- ◆ Dental materials
- ◆ Dental anatomy and terminology
- ◆ Preventive dentistry and nutrition
 - ◆ Patient education in oral hygiene instruction
 - ◆ Coronal polishing
 - ◆ Fluoride treatment
 - ◆ Sealant application
- ◆ Patient Care and charting
- ◆ Dental radiology

PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- ◆ 3 High School credits
- ◆ Competency Certificate
- ◆ Entry level clinical and reception skills (first year)
- ◆ Advanced level clinical skills (second year)
- ◆ Preparation for next level of education/training
- ◆ Successful completion of the program, with a grade of 85% or higher, may result in college credit

CERTIFICATIONS/CREDITS:

- ◆ Preparation for DANB Radiology and Infection Control Examinations (second year)
- ◆ Columbia Basin College Credits
- ◆ Healthcare Provider CPR
- ◆ Bloodborne Pathogens (HIV/AIDS)
- ◆ HIPAA
- ◆ Hazard Communications

PREREQUISITES:

- ◆ The student must indicate a career interest in the dental field: registered dental assistant, dental hygienist, dental laboratory technician, dental receptionist, and/or dentist
- ◆ Participation in Orientation/Interview at the Skills Center
- ◆ Ability to read, write and speak English required for safety considerations
- ◆ Recommended classes include health (“C” or better), biology, speech or communication
- ◆ Enjoy working with people
- ◆ The student must enjoy communicating and working with people
- ◆ Good attendance is essential
- ◆ Preference is given to 12th grade level students due to demand for full time employees in the dental community
- ◆ Application process for the second year advance program requires successful completion of the first year program and teacher recommendation

STUDENT COSTS:

- ◆ Dental Uniform, lab coat, and name tag - \$50 (first year)
- ◆ Program Sweatshirt (optional) - \$30
- ◆ CPR/First Aid cards - \$15 (first year)
- ◆ Family medical insurance or student accident insurance is required. Student accident insurance is available through the Skills Center or sending school.
- ◆ **Current immunization records, including Hepatitis B, Tetanus, and Tuberculosis are required.**

ORGANIZATIONS:

Optional student membership in ADAA (American Dental Assistant Association) - \$30

LAB TIME/THEORY TIME:

Approximately 50% of the time will be devoted to theory and 50% to lab/clinical, hands-on application.

HOMEWORK:

1 - 4 hours per week

ATTENDANCE:

Good attendance is vital for succeeding this class

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- ◆ Registered Dental Assistant
- ◆ Dental Sterilization Technician
- ◆ Lab Technician
- ◆ Front/Office Receptionist
- ◆ Dental Hygiene Assistant