

Dental Assistant

Why should I major as a Dental Assistant?

The responsibilities of dental assistants are numerous, giving them a great deal of variety in their work day. It is the job of the dental assistant to obtain dental records of patients, make them feel as comfortable as possible and prepare them for treatment. Typically dental assistants work at chairside as dentists examine and treat patients. While a patient is being treated, the dental assistant transfers instruments and materials to the dentist and keeps the operating area dry and clear by using suction or other devices. Dental assistants might also be asked to apply matrix retainers, apply topical anesthetics and cavity preventive agents to the teeth. Other duties often performed by a dental assistant include making models of the teeth, polishing crowns of the teeth, and making temporary crowns. It is not uncommon for a dental assistant to assume some clerical duties as well, such as scheduling appointments, maintaining a patient's treatment record, sending statements, and ordering dental supplies. Iowa Western's dental assisting program will prepare you to work as a dental assistant through a combination of classroom lectures and hands-on clinical experience. Upon completing the program at Iowa Western, you will be eligible to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), a certification recognized nationally in the dental field. The State of Iowa requires registration of dental assistants (RDA) recognized by the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners.



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If I major as a Dental Assistant, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?

By earning a diploma in our dental assistant program, you'll be ready to enter the work force immediately upon graduating from Iowa Western.

What is the job outlook for Dental Assistant graduates and what type of jobs will I be qualified for?

There is a continuing projection of rapid enrollment growth in the field of dental assisting, making this a profession with excellent career opportunities. Most dental assistants work in private dental offices, although job opportunities for dental assistants also exist in dental schools, private and government hospitals, state and local public health departments and in clinics. The average starting salary for dental assistants ranges from \$21,000 to \$26,000 annually.

Program of Study

The Dental Assistant program of study prepares students to assist dentists in four-handed dentistry and to perform chairside related procedures. This program includes clinical experience at a dental school and in area dental offices. We adhere to CDC and OSHA guidelines. A copy of our infection control policy is located in the office of the Health Division. Graduates of this program are eligible to take the Dental Assistant National Board and become a Certified Dental Assistant. Graduates are also eligible to take the Iowa Dental Assistants Registration Exam and become an Iowa Registered Dental Assistant. Graduates of this program are awarded a diploma.

The program in dental assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [and has been granted the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements."] The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

* Students must complete the curriculum described below:

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

First Semester		Cr.
HSC 125	Survey of Anatomy for Allied Health	2
DEA 271	Dental Theory I	6
DEA 405	Dental Materials	4
DEA 505	Dental Assisting Principles	5
DEA 314	Radiography I	2
	Communications Requirement (ENG 105, 110 or 111)	3
		22
Second Semester		Cr.
DEA 324	Radiography II	3
DEA 606	Dental Specialties	5.5
DEA 705	Procedures for the Dental Office	3
DEA 275	Dental Theory II	5
DEA 582	Dental Assisting Experience I	2
	Psychology Elective	3
		21.5
Summer Term		Cr.
DEA 583	Dental Assisting Experience II	3.5
DEA 933	Internship Seminar	1
		4.5

48 semester hours required

**For More Information,
Contact the Admissions Office:
712.325.3277 or 800.432.5852, ext. 3277
or the Program Chair at 712.325.3469
www.iwcc.edu**