

CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL ASSISTING

(37 hrs. min.)

CIP: 51.0601

School of Health and Sciences, (505) 428-1258

This program prepares students to enter the dental profession as entry-level dental assistants. A dental assistant, under the supervision of a dentist, assists chair-side, performs laboratory procedures, exposes and processes dental radiographs, and performs receptionist and secretarial duties. Program completion enables students to take the Dental Assisting National Board Exam (DANB) and to obtain certification in expanded duty functions as specified by the state of New Mexico.

The program in dental assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. 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.

As a requirement for admission to the program, students must place into ENGL 109 or higher with appropriate ACCUPLACER score or transfer documentation and must hold a current BLS-CPR certificate.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Produce quality dental radiographs.
- Demonstrate the methods for infection control.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of dental fluorides.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of Coronal Polishing.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of Dental Sealants.
- Demonstrate the general chair-side skills required of a dental assistant.
- Demonstrate the knowledge pertaining and skills to legal and ethical issues related to dentistry.
- Demonstrate the skills for dental practice management including, staff, record, inventory, payroll, billing and quality assurance.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES:

ENGL 109 English Review (4)
Current BLS-CPR certificate

GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT: (3 HRS.)

ENGL 111 Composition and Rhetoric (3)

[or]

ENGL 119 Professional Communication (3)

CORE REQUIREMENTS: (34 HRS.)

DAST 121 Dental Assisting I (2)
DAST 122 Dental Materials (2)
DAST 122L Dental Materials (1)
DAST 123 Dental Radiography I (2)*
DAST 123L Dental Radiography I Lab (1)
DAST 124 Dental Sciences I (3)
DAST 125 Clinical Procedures I (2)
DAST 125L Clinical Procedures I Lab (1)

DAST 131	Dental Sciences II (4)*
DAST 133	Practice Management (2)
DAST 134	Clinical Procedures II (2)*
DAST 134L	Clinical Procedures II Lab (2)
DAST 141	Dental Education Issues (1)
DAST 193	Dental Assisting Practicum I (2)
DAST 222	Community Dental Health (2)
DAST 293	Dental Practicum II (5)

*These courses qualify certificate recipients for expanded duty functions as recognized by the state of New Mexico Board of Dental Health.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES (NOT REQUIRED):

CITC 111	Computers and Technology (4)
[or]	
OFTC 111	Business Software Essentials I (4)
DAST 295A	DANB Prep – Dental Radiology Review (1)
DAST 295B	DANB Prep – Infection Control Review (1)
DAST 295C	General Chair-side Review (1)
DAST 296	Fluoride, Coronal Polishing and Sealants Review (1)
PSYC 130	Applied Health Psychology (3)

NOTE: See “College Success Course Requirement” on Page 10.

TOTAL 37 CREDITS MIN.