



# DENTAL ASSISTANT (RHS & ICE CERTIFICATION)

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## Job Description

Dental assistants perform a variety of patient care, office, and laboratory duties. Dental Assistants sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, prepare and lay out the instruments and materials

required to treat each patient, and obtain and update patients' dental records. Assistants make patients comfortable in the dental chair and prepare them for treatment. During dental procedures, assistants work alongside the dentist. They hand instruments and materials to dentists and keep patients' mouths dry and clear by using suction hoses or other devices. They also instruct patients on postoperative and general oral healthcare.

Dental assistants prepare materials for impressions and restorations and process dental x-rays as directed by a dentist. They also may remove sutures, apply topical anesthetics to gums or cavity-preventive agents to teeth, remove excess cement used in the filling process, and place dental dams to isolate teeth for treatment. Many states are expanding dental assistants' duties to include tasks such as coronal polishing and restorative dentistry functions for those assistants who meet specific training and experience requirements. Dental assistants with laboratory duties make casts of the teeth and mouth from impressions, clean and polish removable appliances, and make temporary crowns.

Those with office duties schedule and confirm appointments, receive patients, keep treatment records, send bills, receive payments, and order dental supplies and materials. Dental assistants must work closely with, and under the supervision of, dentists. Dental assistants are an important part of the oral healthcare team with dental hygienists and dentists. They are usually employed by private and group practices, public health clinics, mobile dental clinics, military service, dental schools and even insurance companies.

## Employment Outlook

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that Dental Assisting is expected to have a 11% job growth from 2018 to 2028. Earning potential for a professional working in this area is \$36,940.

## Admission Requirements

Students must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED to enroll in this course.

### Students in this program must be able to:

Perform multiple motor tasks simultaneously.

Handle equipment and provide safe and effective client care using fine and gross motor skills.

Have a keen sense of touch. Have a steady arm and hand movements while manipulating objects

Or assisting the dentist and/or clients.

Push and pull equipment.



### **Program Description**

This program prepares students to enter the field as a Dental Assistant. The program of study includes: dental assisting techniques, oral anatomy, dental radiology, dental sciences, dental materials, dental records, and an optional opportunity to participate in a Dental Clinical Externship. The method of learning in this program will be lectures, case studies, hands-on clinical practice, guest speakers and dental industry representatives from today's dental field delivering the most current and up-to-date findings within the dental field. ACC has a full chairside dental classroom laboratory, where students learn all relevant chairside techniques.

Dentists may allow dental assistants to take x-rays if they have demonstrated successful completion of the RHS portion of the Dental Assistant National Board (DANB). Although it is not required for the Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) components of the DANB, this course will prepare students to sit for both the Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) and the Infection Control (ICE) portions of the Dental Assistant National Board (DANB) exam. After obtaining the Infection Control and Radiology components, students then are eligible to work in the field and accumulate the required hours needed to take the third and final portion of the Certified Dental Assistant certification.

***The Essential Job Skills & Career Development course is REQUIRED to receive a certificate of completion for the Dental Assistant program.***

Please be advised that if you have been convicted of a felony, you may not be eligible for clinical experiences, internships, externships or certifications associated with certain Healthcare Career programs. Those with previous convictions may also find it difficult to secure employment within a healthcare setting.

### **Time Commitment**

This 9-month program includes 264 hours of classroom instruction. An additional 14 hour Essential Job Skills & Career and Development course is required. There is a 180 hour OPTIONAL clinical externship.

**CRN: 1153/1300 HMED M7118**

**Dates: January 27, 2020 to October 26, 2020 (no class 2/17, 5/25, 09/07)**

**Days: Monday and Wednesday**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Instructor: Renee Sarnelli**

**Assistant: Sage Wilcox**

**Room: 147**

**Fee: \$5,037 (cost includes RHS/ICE exam, textbooks, U-Pass transportation fee and student kit)**

**CRN: 1157/1394 HMED M7118**

**Dates: May 4, 2020 to February 3, 2021 (no class 5/25, 09/07, 1/18, 2/15)**

**Days: Monday and Wednesday**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Instructor: Renee Sarnelli**

**Assistant: Sage Wilcox**

**Room: 147**

**Fee: \$5,037 (cost includes RHS/ICE exam, textbooks, U-Pass transportation fee and student kit)**

**OPTIONAL: Dental Assistant Clinical Externship  
(180 hours)**

You will work with a coordinator to complete your externship for the Dental Assistant course with local dental offices. Externships can be limited in availability. Once registered, individuals will be placed on a list in order by date of registration. As externship opportunities are identified, individuals must demonstrate core competencies to be placed in the field.

**CRN: 1118/1158 HMED M7119**

**Date: Students will work with Coordinator to set up Externship**

**Time: TBD**

**Fee: \$439**

**Coordinator: Renee Sarnelli**

**Payment Information**

Total program cost including the Dental Assistant course, textbooks, ICE & RHS exams, U-Pass transportation fee and the Essentials Job Skills & Career Development course is \$5,210. With the OPTIONAL externship, the cost is \$5,649. Payment plans are available for this program. This program is **CT SNAP & CT WIOA** approved.

Contact Information

For more information or to register please contact Jessica Poirier at 860.253.3066 or [jpoirier@asnuntuck.edu](mailto:jpoirier@asnuntuck.edu).

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