



# DENTAL ASSISTANT (RHS & ICE CERTIFICATION)

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## Job Description

Dental assistants often spend much of their day working closely with patients and dentists. For example, dental assistants might take a patient's medical history, blood pressure, and pulse before a procedure; explain what will be done; and talk to patients about oral care. They help dentists during a procedure by passing instruments and holding equipment such as suction hoses, matrix bands, and dental curing lights. Other tasks include preparing the treatment room and making sure that instruments and equipment are sterile. Dental assistants also may document the procedure that is done and schedule follow-up appointments.

Some dental assistants are specially trained to take x rays of teeth and the surrounding areas. They place a protective apron over patients' chest and lap, position the x-ray machine, place the x-ray sensor or film in patients' mouths, and take the x rays. Afterward, dental assistants ensure that the images are clear. Assistants who perform lab tasks, such as taking impressions of a patient's teeth, work under the direction of a dentist. They may prepare materials for dental impressions or temporary crowns. Each state regulates the scope of practice for dental assistants. Some states let dental assistants polish teeth to remove stains and plaque from the enamel or apply sealants, fluoride, or topical anesthetic. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm#tab-2>

## Employment Outlook

Employment of dental assistants is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations.

About 44,000 openings for dental assistants are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm#tab-1>

## 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**

A dental assistant works on the delivery of quality oral health care and is a big part of the dental care team. Responsibilities include performing tasks requiring both interpersonal and technical skills, assisting the dentist with the patient, developing dental radiographs (x-ray), collecting information about patients' medical history, and assisting patients to feel comfortable when entering the office and during treatment.

This 350-hour program is designed to prepare students for a career working as a dental assistant in the dental profession. Students will attend a clinical rotation during the program for a total of 150 hours. Topics include infection control, dental charting, preparing the patient, basic chairside assisting, dental instruments and handpieces, tray set-up and procedures, dental materials, and business administration procedures.

After completion of this program, students will:

- Identify the history of the dental profession and the legal and ethical policies.
- Identify the educational requirements and examinations of a dental assistant.
- Identify basic knowledge of the body systems.
- Identify oral embryology and histology.
- Identify the dentitions, dental terminology and tooth numbering systems.
- Identify and classify hand instruments and handpieces.
- Identify dental anesthesia and pain control.
- Differentiate specialty offices and understands their techniques and procedures.
- Identify nutritional guidelines.
- Identify oral pathology.
- Be able to conduct a medical history and have knowledge of medication and medical conditions.
- Identify basic microbiology and disease transmission.
- Assess vital signs and knowledge of the readings.
- Treatment plan and provide patient education.
- Take radiographs and identify landmarks, familiarize student with radiographic equipment and radiation safety.
- Take impressions, assist with a rubber dam, have knowledge of dental materials.
- Identify OSHA regulations.

***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 7-month program includes 200 hours of lecture and lab instruction with a 150-hour clinical component. An additional 14-hour Essential Job Skills & Career and Development course is required.

**CRN: 1578/1579 HMED M7118**

**Dates: February 28, 2023 to August 15, 2023 (no class 7/4, 7/6)**

**Days: Tuesday and Thursday**

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

**Instructor: Rachel Leipold**

**Room: 147**

**Instruction type: HYBRID (one night per week virtual via WebEx, one night on campus)**

**Fee: \$ 4,538 (cost includes RHS/ICE exam, textbooks, and student kit)**

**HYBRID: This type of course delivery includes on-site and online instruction (combination of LRON and on ground or ONLINE and on ground) with a focus on scheduling limited number of class sessions on campus. Blackboard use is the same as online or LRON, depending on the mode of delivery.**

### **Payment Information**

Total program cost including the Dental Assistant course, textbooks, ICE & RHS exams, and the Essentials Job Skills & Career Development course is \$4,711. Payment plans are available for this program. This program is **CT SNAP & CT WIOA** approved.

### **Contact Information**

For more information or to register please call 860.253.3028 or email [AS-continuinged@asnuntuck.edu](mailto:AS-continuinged@asnuntuck.edu)

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