

Dental Assisting (Diploma)

Diploma Program

960 Contact Hours

40.00 Semester Credits

40 Instructional Weeks – Full Time

Program offered at:

Memphis, Tennessee

Dental Assisting/Dental Assistant Mission Statement:

The program prepares students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for success in an entry-level position. The program aims to guide students in developing proficiency, professionalism, empathy, and accurate technique while learning to interact professionally with dentists, coworkers, and patients.

Learning Objectives / Instructional Outcomes

The Dental Assisting program learning objectives include achievement of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in management skills, appointment scheduling, laboratory procedures, maintenance of patient records, chairside assistance, instructing patients in proper oral hygiene, and assisting in the selection, placement and removal of rubber dam, sutures, and periodontal packs.

Career Overview

The Dental Assistant makes an important contribution to the success of a dental practice as a valuable member of the dental healthcare team. The Dental Assistant's responsibilities may include preparing patients for procedures, assisting the dentist with instrument transfer during procedures, maintaining treatment planning records, exposing and processing dental x-rays, reviewing oral hygiene and postoperative care instructions with patients, performing laboratory work, and managing such essential functions as inventory control, infection control and OSHA compliance. The Dental Assistant may also be called on to assist in the business office with filing records, preparing insurance reports, maintaining records on the computer, and scheduling appointments.

In order to graduate from the Dental Assisting program, students must successfully complete the following curriculum:

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Externship Hours	Semester Credit Hours
GE102	Professionalism for Allied Health Careers	80			5.00
DA110	Introduction to Dental Assisting	40	40		4.00
DA120	Microbiology, Infection Control & Intro. to Chairside Assisting	40	40		4.00
DA130	Operative Dentistry and Properties of Dental Materials	40	40		4.00
DA140	Introduction to Radiology	40	40		4.00
DA150	Radiology and Introduction to Dental Procedures	40	40		4.00
DA160	Operative Dentistry Procedures & Manipulation of Dental Lab Materials	40	40		4.00
DA170	Practice Management & Dental Specialties	40	40		4.00
DA180	Dental Assisting Externship			320	7.00
Subtotals		360	280	320	40.00