



*Dental Assistant
Course Description*

1. **Course Title:** Dental Assistant
2. **CBEDs Title:** Dental Services
3. **Job Titles:** Refer to Labor Market Survey
4. **Course Description:**

The Dental Assistant Program may be offered as a two-year course. This course prepares the student for employment as an entry-level, chair-side dental assistant, within California law. Through theory, laboratory, and clinical experience students learn to assist at chair-side with preventive, restorative, and surgical procedures including the proper utilization of dental materials and implementation of infection control protocol. Upon successful completion of the Dental Assistant Program, the student will receive a Certificate of Completion. Students possessing this certificate are granted by the Dental Board of CA 36 weeks work experience credit toward the 15 months of work experience required to be eligible to take the state board exams to become a registered dental assistant. Included in the program is the opportunity to learn dental radiography through an approved California Dental Radiation Safety course. This is an evening section that upon successful completion certifies the student to take dental x-rays in the state of California.
5. **Course Prerequisites:** Negative TB Test
6. **Course Hours:** 824 (924 with x-ray)
 - Dental Assistant Program = 584 Hours
 - Dental Radiography (optional) = 100 Hours
 - Community Classroom/CCTE = 240 Hours
7. **Course Dates:** Revised April 24, 2014
8. **Course Outline:**
 - A. Career Preparation Standards/SCANS:

All work site learning methodologies including Community Classroom and Cooperative Vocational Education will be utilized when appropriate.

 - Students will understand how personal skill development affects their employability. They will exhibit positive attitudes, self confidence, honesty, perseverance, self discipline, and personal hygiene. They will



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manage time and balance priorities as well as demonstrate a capacity for lifelong learning.

- Students will understand key concepts in group dynamics, conflict resolution, and negotiation. They will work cooperatively, share responsibilities, accept supervision, and assume leadership roles. They will demonstrate cooperative working relationships across gender and cultural groups.
- Students will exhibit critical thinking skills, logical reasoning, and problem solving. They will apply numerical estimation, measurement, and calculation, as appropriate. They will recognize problem situations; identify, locate and organize needed information or data; and propose, evaluate, and select from alternative solutions.
- Students will understand principles of effective communication. They will communicate both orally and in writing. They will listen attentively and follow instructions, requesting clarification or additional information as needed.
- Students will understand occupational safety issues including the avoidance of physical hazards in the work environment. They will operate equipment safely so as not to endanger themselves or others. They will demonstrate proper handling of hazardous materials.
- Students will understand career paths and strategies for obtaining employment within their chosen fields. They will assume responsibility for professional growth. They will understand and promote the role of their field within a productive society, including the purposes of professional organizations.
- Students will understand and adapt to changing technology by identifying, learning, and applying new skills to improve job performance. They will effectively employ technologies relevant to their fields.
- Students will understand complex inter-relationships of systems.
 - Students will understand systems – know how social, organizational, and technological systems work and operate effectively with them.
 - Students will monitor and correct performance – distinguish trends, predict impacts on system operations, diagnose systems' performance and correct malfunctions.
 - Students will improve or design systems – suggest modifications to existing systems and develop new or alternative systems to improve performance.
- Students will understand all aspects of the industry including: planning, management, and finance; technical and production skills; underlying principles of technology; labor, community, health, and environmental issues.



B. Content Area Skills:

Students will be able to understand and demonstrate competencies in the following areas that may lead to entry-level employment.

- Orientation
- Alginate Impressions
- Diagnostic Casts
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Structures of the Head and Oral Cavity
- Tooth Morphology
- The Dental Examination
- Disease Transmission
- Infection Control
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Preventive Dentistry
- Psychology and the Special Patient
- Pharmacology and Pain Control
- Medical Emergencies
- Restorative Materials and Dental Cements
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Fixed Prosthetics
- Removable Prosthetics
- Oral Surgery
- Endodontics
- Orthodontics
- Ethical and Legal Aspects of Dentistry
- Communication
- Employment Skills
- Radiation Safety
- Radiation Physics
- Clinical Dentistry
- Dental Instruments and Accessories Moisture Control Techniques
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Extraoral Radiography Techniques
- Radiographic Interpretation
- Production of Radiation
- Dental Film
- Intraoral Radiography Techniques
- Processing
- Legal Issues



C. Expected Student Proficiencies:

Students will understand and demonstrate skills related to the Dental Assistant occupation through a variety of testing including written and performance based:

Areas in which students will demonstrate their proficiencies include:

- Orientation
- Alginate Impressions
- Diagnostic Casts
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Structures of the Head and Oral Cavity
- Tooth Morphology
- The Dental Examination
- Disease Transmission
- Infection Control
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Preventive Dentistry
- Psychology and the Special Patient
- Communication
- Pharmacology and Pain Control
- Medical Emergencies
- Clinical Dentistry
- Dental Instruments and Accessories
- Moisture Control Techniques
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Extraoral Radiography Techniques
- Radiographic Interpretation
- Restorative Materials and Dental Cements
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Fixed Prosthetics
- Removable Prosthetics
- Oral Surgery
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- Processing
- Legal Issues

D. Hours of Instruction: 924
See course outline for breakdown of instructional hours.

E. Industry/Licensing: None

9. Additional Recommended/Optional Items:

A. Articulation: None

B. Academic Credit: None

C. Instructional Strategies:

- Lectures
- Demonstration
- Lab
- Cooperative Learning Groups
- Role Play
- Guest Speakers
- On-the-job Training
- Videos
- Projects

D. Evaluation:

E. Instructional Materials:

- Modern Dental Assisting, 9th & 10th Editions
- Pocket Guide to Dental Instruments 3rd & 4th Editions
- Fundamentals for Dental Auxiliaries:
 - Dental Terminology
 - Ethics and Jurisprudence
 - Psychology

F. Certificates:

Students receive a Certificate of Completion in Dental Assisting upon completing each semester with an average score of 75%. In addition, all skill competencies must be met with by an average score of 75%.

Students receive a Certificate of Radiation Safety enabling them to expose dental radiographs in the state of California upon completing the following:



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Certificate Requirements:

Radiation Safety Exam

Principles, Production, Equipment Exam

Dental Film Exam

Anatomical Landmarks and Interpretation

Competency

100%

80%

80%

80%

Exposures Taken To Diagnostic Quality:

Full Mouth Survey (Manikin) – Parallel Technique

Full Mouth Survey (Manikin) – Bisection Technique

Bitewing Series (Manikin) (2)

Clinical Full Mouth Survey (3) – Parallel Technique

Clinical Full Mouth Survey (1) – Bisection Technique