

# DENTAL ASSISTING

## Program Description

The Dental Assisting Program is an intensive 10-month sequence of instruction. Graduates will qualify for the California State Registered Dental Assisting (RDA) Licensure Examination. Graduates are also eligible for the Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) Certification Exam administered by the Dental Assisting National Board Exam. The program offers a combination of lecture, laboratory, and clinical courses in general and specialty dental practices, as well as participation in externships at a local dental school, dental offices, and/or clinics. Students will also acquire valuable certification in infection control, dental practice act, coronal polishing, dental x-ray, and pit and fissure sealants as part of the program curriculum. Graduates are in demand and have many different types of job opportunities available to them.

Learn more about the program on the [Dental Assisting website](#).

## Program Learning Outcomes

- Graduates will demonstrate entry-level competency skills mandated by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and the Dental Board of California.
- Graduates will value and implement proper radiation safety for patients, self, and others.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates can have direct patient interaction by working as a chairside dental assistant in a general practice dental office or in any of the other specialty practices including periodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery, pedodontics (children's dentistry), endodontics, and prosthodontics. In addition, dental assistants can work in the front office as a receptionist and/or office manager. Other job opportunities include public health educator or administrator, sales representative, continuing education coordinator, and/or consultant.

## Award Type(s)

- AS = Associate in Science Degree
- CA = Certificate of Achievement

## Units Required

- Major: 57
- Certificate(s): 57

## Program Application

Admittance to this program is through an application process. Program information, admission criteria details, and applications can be found at the [Dental Assisting Program website](#).

## Program Prerequisites

- High school diploma, GED, or equivalent.

## Additional Information

**Suggested Preparation Course:**

Code	Title	Units
D A 200L	GUIDE FOR SUCCESS: A DENTAL ASSISTING PREREQUISITE COURSE	1

## Associate Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>English Proficiency</b>		
Select one of the following:		
ENGL 1A	COMPOSITION & READING	5
ENGL 1AH	HONORS COMPOSITION & READING	5
ESLL 26	ADVANCED COMPOSITION & READING	5
or equivalent		
<b>Mathematics Proficiency</b>		
College-level math course at or above the level of Intermediate Algebra		

A minimum of 90 units is required<sup>1</sup> to include:

- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: Foothill General Education, CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)
- Core courses (57 units)

<sup>1</sup> Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

**Note:** All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a grade of "C" or better is required for all core courses used for the degree or certificate.

## Core and Support Courses

### Core Courses

Course	Title	Units
<b>Fall Quarter</b>		
D A 50	ORIENTATION TO DENTAL ASSISTING	1
D A 51A	INTRODUCTION TO CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING	10.5
D A 53A	INTRODUCTION TO RADIOGRAPHY I	3
D A 58	SPECIALTY PRACTICE PROCEDURES	1
D A 62A	DENTAL SCIENCES I	2
D A 71	INFECTION CONTROL & HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT	1.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Winter Quarter</b>		
D A 51B	INTERMEDIATE CLINICAL DENTAL ASSISTING	3
D A 53B	DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY II	2
D A 56	DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	1
D A 57	OFFICE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	2
D A 60A	DENTAL OFFICE BUSINESS PRACTICES I	2
D A 62B	DENTAL SCIENCES II	2
D A 73	DENTAL ASSISTING SUPERVISED CLINIC	5.5
D A 100	LAW & ETHICS FOR THE DENTAL ASSISTANT	1
<b>Units</b>		<b>18.5</b>
<b>Spring Quarter</b>		
D A 51C	ADVANCED DENTAL ASSISTING SKILLS	3.5
D A 53C	DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY III	1
D A 60B	DENTAL OFFICE BUSINESS PRACTICES II	3
D A 62C	DENTAL SCIENCES III	2
D A 63	SPECIAL PATIENT POPULATIONS	1

D A 74	DENTAL ASSISTING CLINICAL PRACTICE	5.5
D A 85	RDA REVIEW	2
D A 88	PIT & FISSURE SEALANTS	1.5
	<b>Units</b>	<b>19.5</b>
	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>57</b>

## Certificate Requirements

### Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assisting

- Units: 57

The certificate of achievement is awarded upon completion of the program prerequisites and core courses (general education courses are not required) and the following:

- Proof of Current Basic Life Support Provider Certification from the American Heart Association

Note: All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a grade of "C" or better is required for all core courses for the certificate.