

Dental Assistant

Diploma Program

Contact Hours: 800

Semester Credits: 26

Instructional Weeks – Full Time: 32

Average Time to Complete – Full Time: 9 Months

Program Overview

The Dental Assistant's role is multifaceted, providing an opportunity for both variety and specialization. Career opportunities are available throughout various industries and range from general to specialty practices, private dental offices, dental schools, public and private clinics, hospitals, the armed forces, insurance companies, and dental manufacturers and suppliers.

Program Delivery

The Dental Assistant program is delivered in a blended format. Courses will be delivered entirely online, entirely on-ground or with an appropriate blend of both online and on-ground hours in the same course. Of the 800 program hours, a maximum of 400 course hours (50.0%) may be offered online.

Program Objectives

The objective is to provide students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for successful employment as entry-level, chairside or front office Dental Assistants. The program helps students acquire appropriate skills quickly and thoroughly. In each successive course, students learn applicable dental terminology and build on the chairside assisting skills, such as charting, instrument identification, making study casts, and taking dental x-rays, which were acquired in previous courses. These clinical studies continue throughout the program, as does the discussion of professional development and expanded duty skills. A diploma will be issued upon successful completion of the program.

CPR Certification

To be eligible for American Heart Association (AHA) certification, students must attend all scheduled hours of CPR lecture and pass practical checkoffs and a written exam. A student who is tardy or misses a lecture must repeat the lecture, even if the student passes the checkoffs and written exam. If CPR is offered during another shift in the same term, the student may attend that lecture. If not offered during that term, the student will receive an incomplete for the course until the lecture is repeated. AHA requires that students pass the CPR written test with a grade of at least 84 percent. If below 84 percent, they may retake the exam once. The original test score will be used to calculate the course grade. If the test is retaken and failed a second time, the student must repeat the entire course of CPR instruction. If a student is absent for the entire course, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor to find an appropriate session or class to attend. If the student does not do so, he or she may not graduate.

Effective September 1, 2006, to apply to become a Registered Dental Assistant, a student must complete a mandatory short course approved by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE). An approved provider list can be found on the TSBDE website: www.tsbde.state.tx.us. By law, a Dental Assistant must be registered with TSBDE in order to take x-rays at a dentist's office.

Registration and certification requirements for taking and passing this examination are not controlled by Concorde, but by outside agencies, and are subject to change by the agency without notice. Therefore, Concorde cannot guarantee that graduates will be eligible to take this exam, at all or at any specific time, regardless of their eligibility status upon enrollment.

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours (Ground/Online)	Lab Hours (Ground/Online)	Externship Hours (Ground/Online)	Semester Credit Hours
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CPSO1011	Career Path Success A	15 (0 / 15)	0	0	0.5
CPSO1012	Career Path Success B	15 (0 / 15)	0	0	0.5
CPSO1013	Career Path Success C	15 (0 / 15)			0.5
CPSO1014	Career Path Success D	15 (0 / 15)			0.5
CPSO1015	Career Path Success E	15 (0 / 15)	0	0	0.5
CPSO1016	Career Path Success F	15 (0 / 15)			0.5
DNTA1331	Introduction to Dental Assisting and Dental Terminology	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1333	Dental Specialties	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1335	Materials and Procedures	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1337	Patient Care and Management	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1339	Diagnostics and Orthodontics	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1341	Dental Radiology	40 (10 / 30)	40 (30 / 10)	0	3
DNTA1201	Externship I	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
DNTA1202	Externship II	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
	Subtotal	330 (60/270)	240 (180/60)	230 (160/70)	26

*These courses are offered online.

This applies to all students starting on or after February 12, 2024

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours (Ground/Online)	Lab Hours (Ground/Online)	Externship Hours (Ground/Online)	Semester Credit Hours
DNTA1324	Infection Control	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1354	Dental Specialties	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1364	Materials & Instruments	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1374	Business Operations and Emergencies	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1384	Preventive Dentistry	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1394	Radiation Safety	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	3.5
DNTA1201	Externship I	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
DNTA1202	Externship II	0	0	115 (80 / 35)	2.5
	Subtotal	330 (48/282)	240 (192/48)	230 (160/70)	26