

Be Something...

Dental Assisting

What preparation will this program give me?

Our national and state accredited Dental Assisting program prepares students to assume the responsibility of assisting a dentist in all phases of general practice.

Graduates of the program with a "C" grade or better are prepared to take the California State and National Board examinations.

What kind of job will I be qualified for when I finish?

Graduates typically become dental assistants. Dental assistants perform a variety of patient care, office and laboratory duties. They work chairside as dentists examine and treat patients. They make patients comfortable in the dental chair and prepare them for treatment. They may have laboratory duties such as making casts of teeth and mouth from impressions, or office duties such as obtaining dental records, taking dental x-rays, or scheduling and confirming appointments. Dental Assistants often specialize in a particular field such as pedodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, and endodontics. The median hourly wage for dental assistants in the Oakland Metropolitan Area is \$18.04.

Some people with dental assistant training become office managers, dental-assisting instructors, or dental product sales representatives. Others go back to school to become dental hygienists or dentists.



The demand for dental assistants is expected to grow by almost 10% in the Oakland Metropolitan area by the year 2012.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition*

What classes will I take?

Required Courses:		Units
Dental 220	Infection Control and Oral Health	1.5
Dental 221	Professional Standards	0.5
Dental 222	Oral Anatomy	3.5
Dental 223	Chairside Procedures	2
Dental 224A	Radiology I	2.5
Dental 225	Dental Materials & Laboratory Procedures	3
Dental 224B	Radiology II	2.5
Dental 226	Advanced Chairside	2.5
Dental 227	Biodental Sciences	2
Dental 228	Clinical Rotations and Review	7
Dental 229	Practice Management	1.5
Total Required Units		28.5

"You can expect to gain great knowledge and have caring instructors who have created this incredible program that will help you become expert dental assistants."

— Daisy Rodriguez, Dental Assisting Program Student

What degree will I receive and how many course credits will I need?

Students can obtain either a Certificate of Completion or an Associate in Science Degree. A Certificate of Completion is given after satisfactory completion of the 28.50 units of required coursework plus 9 units in other general education required courses.

An Associate in Science degree is given after satisfactory completion of the 28.50 units of required coursework plus 31.5 additional general education and elective course units.

Where do I get more information?

Call the College of Alameda Dental Assisting Department at (510) 748-2262 with questions or to request an application packet.

Applications to the Dental Assisting Program are accepted on an on-going basis throughout the year. Applications received on or before May 1 of each year receive first consideration to admittance into the program.

