

## CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL ASSISTING

(37 hrs. min.)

CIP: 51.0601

This program prepares students to enter the dental profession as entry-level dental assistants. A dental assistant, under the direct supervision of a dentist, assists chair-side, performs laboratory procedures, exposes and processes dental radiographs, and performs receptionist and secretarial duties. Program completion enables students to take the Dental Assisting National Board Exam (DANB) and to obtain certification in expanded duty functions as specified by the state of New Mexico.

The program in dental assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

The curriculum follows a block system; courses are arranged in clusters and must be taken together as corequisites if the student wishes to complete the program in 10 months. As a requirement for admission to the program, students must place into ENGL 109 or higher with appropriate Accuplacer score or transfer documentation and must hold a current BLS-CPR certificate.

### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Produce quality dental radiographs.
- Demonstrate the methods for infection control.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of dental fluorides.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of Coronal Polishing.
- Demonstrate the skills required in assisting in the application of Dental Sealants.
- Demonstrate the general chair-side skills required of a dental assistant.
- Demonstrate the knowledge pertaining and skills to legal and ethical issues related to dentistry.
- Demonstrate the skills for dental practice management including, staff, record, inventory, payroll, billing and quality assurance.

### PROGRAM PREREQUISITES:

ENGL 108                      English Fundamentals (4)

Current BLS-CPR certificate

## CERTIFICATES

GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT: (3 HRS.)

ENGL 111           Composition and Rhetoric (3)

[or]

ENGL 119           Professional Communication (3)

The block curriculum consists of:

Fall Semester Block I: (14 hrs.)

DAST 121           Dental Assisting I (2)

DAST 122           Dental Materials (3)

DAST 123\*          Dental Radiography I (3)

DAST 124           Dental Sciences I (3)

DAST 125           Clinical Procedures I (3)

Spring Semester Block II: (14 hrs.)

DAST 131           Dental Sciences II (4)

DAST 133           Practice Management (2)

DAST 134\*          Clinical Procedures II (4)

DAST 193           Dental Assisting Practicum I (2)

DAST 222           Community Dental Health (2)

Summer Session Block III: (6 hrs.)

DAST 141           Dental Education Issues (1)

DAST 293           Dental Practicum II (5)

\*These courses qualify certificate recipients for expanded duty functions as authorized by the state of New Mexico Board of Dental Health.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES (NOT REQUIRED):

CITC 111           Computers and Technology (4)

[or]

OFTC 111           Business Software Essentials I (4)

PSYC 130           Applied Health Psychology (3)

Note: See "College Success Course Requirement" on Page 8.

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## SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 111           Composition and Rhetoric (3)

[or]

ENGL 119           Professional Communication (3)

Fall Semester Block I/14 Credits

DAST 121           Dental Assisting I (2)

DAST 122           Dental Materials (3)

DAST 123           Dental Radiography I (3)

DAST 124           Dental Sciences I (3)

DAST 125           Clinical Procedures I (3)

Spring Semester Block II/14 Credits

DAST 131           Dental Sciences II (4)

DAST 133           Practice Management (2)

DAST 134           Clinical Procedures II (4)

DAST 193           Dental Assisting Practicum I (2)

DAST 222           Community Dental Health (2)

Summer Semester Block III/6 Credits

DAST 141           Dental Education Issues (1)

DAST 293           Dental Practicum II (5)

TOTAL 37 CREDITS MIN.