

Dental Assisting (Diploma) - Southaven

Diploma Program

Contact Hours: 800

Semester Credits: 35

Instructional Weeks – Full Time: 32

Average Time to Complete – Full Time: 9 Months

Program offered at: Southaven, Mississippi

Dental Assisting (Diploma) Mission Statement

The program prepares students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for success in an entry-level position. The program aims to guide students in developing proficiency, professionalism, empathy, and accurate technique while learning to interact professionally with dentists, coworkers, and patients.

Learning Objectives / Instructional Outcomes

The Dental Assisting program provides students with sufficient theoretical knowledge and practical skills to perform efficiently in the professional capacity in an entry-level position. The program includes courses covering management skills, appointment scheduling, laboratory procedures, maintenance of patient records, chairside assistance, instructing patients in proper oral hygiene, and assisting in the selection, placement and removal of rubber dam, sutures, and periodontal packs.

Career Overview

The Dental Assistant makes an important contribution to the success of a dental practice as a valuable member of the dental healthcare team. The Dental Assistant's responsibilities may include preparing patients for procedures, assisting the dentist with instrument transfer during procedures, maintaining treatment planning records, exposing and processing dental x-rays, reviewing oral hygiene and postoperative care instructions with patients, performing laboratory work, and managing such essential functions as inventory control, infection control and OSHA compliance. The Dental Assistant may also be called on to assist in the business office with filing records, preparing insurance reports, maintaining records on the computer, and scheduling appointments.

In order to graduate from the Dental Assisting (Diploma) program, students must successfully complete the following curriculum:

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Externship Hours	Semester Credit Hours
CPSO1111	Career Path Success A	15			1
CPSO1112	Career Path Success B	15			1
CPSO1113	Career Path Success C	15			1
CPSO1114	Career Path Success D	15			1
CPSO1115	Career Path Success E	15			1
CPSO1116	Career Path Success F	15			1
DNTA1431	Introduction to Dental Assisting and Dental Terminology	40	40		4
DNTA1433	Dental Specialties	40	40		4
DNTA1435	Materials and Procedures	40	40		4
DNTA1437	Patient Care and Management	40	40		4

DNTA1439	Diagnostics and Orthodontics	40	40		4
DNTA1441	Dental Radiology	40	40		4
DNTA1201	Externship I	0	0	115	2.5
DNTA1202	Externship II	0	0	115	2.5
Subtotal		330	240	230	35

* These courses are offered online.

**A portion of 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
DNTA1524	Infection Control	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	5
DNTA1534	Dental Specialties	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	5
DNTA1544	Materials & Instruments	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	5
DNTA1554	Business Operations and Emergencies	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	5
DNTA1564	Preventive Dentistry	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	5
DNTA1574	Radiation Safety	55 (8 / 47)	40 (32 / 8)	0	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)	35