

Dental Assistant Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Allan Hancock College
Cerritos College
Chaffey Community College
Citrus College
City College of San Francisco
College of Alameda
College of Marin
College of San Mateo
College of the Redwoods
Contra Costa College
Cypress College
Diablo Valley College
Foothill College
Lake Tahoe Community College
Monterey Peninsula College
Moreno Valley College
Orange Coast College
Oxnard College
Palomar College
Pasadena City College
Reedley College
Sacramento City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Jose City College
Santa Rosa Junior College

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: The Health Workforce Initiative at Butte College (530) 892-3060 www.ca-hwi.org



ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
through the
CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES



Health Workforce Initiative

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The California Community Colleges
Allied Health Programs

Step Up to the Future with

Dental Assisting



Dental Assisting



Step Up to the Future!



Photo credit: Citrus College

What Does a Dental Assistant Do?

Dental Assistants work along with Dentists and Dental Hygienists to perform a variety of office, patient care, and laboratory tasks. Dental Assistants prepare patients for treatment and examinations in addition to assuring that dental records, supplies and instruments are ready for the dentists to use. Dental Assistants help chair-side by handing instruments and materials to the dentist and keeping patients comfortable and relaxed. Dental Assistants also prepare and expose radiographs, sterilize and disinfect equipment, take impressions, and instruct patients in post-treatment care.

Facts About Dental Assistants & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Dental Assistants from 2012-2022 will increase by 15.5 percent with an annual average of 1,640 job openings per year.



Photo credit: College of the Redwoods

To become a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in the State of California you must be a high school graduate and pass practical and written examinations and provide proof of successful completions of select courses. Both Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation clearance must be obtained prior to testing. To be eligible to take the exam you must graduate from a board approved RDA program, a minimum of 800 hours; or you must complete at least 15 months (1,280 hours) paid work experience as a Dental Assistant with a licensed Dentist in the United States; or complete a Department of Education approved 4-month education program and 11 months of work experience with a licensed Dentist in the U.S. (www.dbc.ca.gov).

For more information, visit: www.dbc.ca.gov/applicants/rda/becomelicensed_rda.shtml.

Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

- Detail oriented.
- Tolerance for working with oral secretions and blood.
- Organized, accurate and careful.
- Calm and pleasant.
- Desire to help others feel calm when they are anxious or afraid.
- Ability to give clear instructions and to educate others.
- Ability to follow and take directions.
- Good reading comprehension, communication skills and listening skills.
- Willingness to work with x-ray equipment.
- Accuracy in recording information.
- Tolerance for standing or sitting for long periods of time.
- Assertiveness to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task.

Sources for Further Information About Dental Assistants:

Dental Board of California
<http://www.dbc.ca.gov>

California Dental Assistants Association
<http://www.cdaaweb.org>

American Dental Association
www.ada.org/index.asp

American Dental Education Association
www.explorehealthcareers.org

Registered Dental Assistant Licensing Agency:

Dental Board of California
www.dbc.ca.gov/applicants/rda/becomelicensed_rda.shtml

For more information on salaries go to:
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov then
<http://salarysurfer.coccol.edu/SalarySurfer.aspx>

For a directory of all Allied Health programs offered at California's Community Colleges please visit:
www.ca-hwi.org

