

Dental Assisting

DENTAL ASSISTING – DENTL

Charles Ramos, Dean
 Sciences Division
 Physical Sciences Building, Room 263

Possible career opportunities

The Diablo Valley College dental assisting program prepares students to work as an essential member of the dental team. Employment opportunities for the graduates include: chairside assistant, front office administrator, x-ray technician for dental radiation laboratories, agent for dental insurance companies, or laboratory technician for dental laboratories. The DVC dental assisting program is approved by the Dental Board of California and accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. Upon graduation, students are eligible to take state and national board examinations to become a licensed Registered Dental Assistant in California (RDA) and a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA).

**Associate in science degree
 Dental assisting**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. act as a member of the dental health team and apply professional, ethical and legal principles while functioning in the role of the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA).
- B. assume responsibility for prevention of disease transmission utilizing universal precautions in the work environment to protect those entrusted to their care.
- C. show competence in skills as described in the current California Dental Practice Act. Said professional should perform with a balance of professionalism and sensitivity characteristic of genuine compassionate care.
- D. exhibit knowledge necessary for successful completion of the California Registered Dental Assistant's Examination and the National Certified Dental Assistant's Examination.
- E. apply critical thinking and self-assessment skills to enhance learning, research, patient care, professional growth, and continued competency.
- F. integrate and apply health literacy and culturally competent communication skills to oral health care services, academic endeavors, community projects, and professional activities.

The required dental assisting program classes are taught during the day; however, the general education courses required for the certificate or degree may be taken in the evening or at an alternate location.

The 10-month program is scheduled to begin in summer with program completion in the following spring. The program includes classroom instruction as well as clinical experience in the DVC community clinic and various externship rotations.

The Dental Assisting Program is limited to 24 students. Applicants must submit high school transcripts conferring graduation or equivalent to the DVC Admissions and Records Office, and successfully pass DENTL-120 Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program to be considered.

Dental assisting students must submit the following to the Dental Programs Department by the beginning of classes: (1) CPR/BLS certification for Health Care Providers; (2) current immunizations/titers; (3) proof of satisfactory tuberculosis (TB) screening; (4) current physical examination; (5) background check; and (6) passing certified drug test.

To earn an associate in science degree with a major in dental assisting, students must complete each course used to meet a major requirement with a "C" grade or higher and complete all general education requirements as listed in the catalog. Certain courses may satisfy both major and other general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once.

<i>program prerequisite:</i>		<i>units</i>
DENTL-120	Overview of Dental Assisting	0.3
 <i>major requirements:</i>		 <i>units</i>
DENHY-124	Dental Radiography	3
DENTL-160	Infection Control and California Dental Practice Act	3
DENTL-171	Oral and Facial Anatomy and Pathology	3.5
DENTL-173	Dental Assisting Chairside Skills	3
DENTL-174	Dental Operative and Laboratory Materials	3
DENTL-176	Anatomy, Physiology, Medical Emergencies, and Pharmacology	2
DENTL-180	Dental Office Management	3
DENTL-182	Dental Radiography Laboratory	0.5
DENTL-183	Advanced Chairside	5
DENTL-184	Transition to Dental Assisting Professional	7

Note: DVC General Education must be satisfied to earn an associate degree. It is strongly recommended to complete ENGL-122 or equivalent prior to entering the dental assisting program.

total minimum units for the major 33.3

Dental Assisting

**Certificate of achievement
Dental assisting**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. act as a member of the dental health team and apply professional, ethical and legal principles while functioning in the role of the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA).
- B. assume responsibility for prevention of disease transmission utilizing universal precautions in the work environment to protect those entrusted to their care.
- C. show competence in skills as described in the current California Dental Practice Act. Said professional should perform with a balance of professionalism and sensitivity characteristic of genuine compassionate care.
- D. exhibit knowledge necessary for successful completion of the California Registered Dental Assistant’s Examination and the National Certified Dental Assistant’s Examination.
- E. apply critical thinking and self-assessment skills to enhance learning, research, patient care, professional growth, and continued competency.
- F. integrate and apply health literacy and culturally competent communication skills to oral health care services, academic endeavors, community projects, and professional activities.

<i>program prerequisite:</i>	<i>units</i>
DENTL-120 Overview of Dental Assisting	0.3

<i>required courses:</i>	<i>units</i>
DENHY-124 Dental Radiography	3
DENTL-160 Infection Control and California Dental Practice Act	3
DENTL-171 Oral and Facial Anatomy and Pathology	3.5
DENTL-173 Dental Assisting Chairside Skills	3
DENTL-174 Dental Operative and Laboratory Materials	3
DENTL-176 Anatomy, Physiology, Medical Emergencies, and Pharmacology	2
DENTL-180 Dental Office Management	3
DENTL-182 Dental Radiography Laboratory	0.5
DENTL-183 Advanced Chairside	5
DENTL-184 Transition to Dental Assisting Professional	7
ENGL-122 First-Year College Writing and Reading	3

Note: It is strongly recommended to completed ENGL-122 prior to entering the dental assisting program.

total minimum required units	36.3
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DENTL-110 Introduction to the Dental Profession

- 1 units P/NP
- 18 hours lecture per term
 - Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected
 - Note: This course is open to all students

This course provides an overview of the dental professions, with special emphasis on assisting and hygiene concepts. Content is designed to be helpful to students considering applying to dental assisting or dental hygiene programs. CSU

DENTL-120 Overview or Dental Assisting

- .3 unit P/NP
- 6 hours lecture/3 hours laboratory per term
 - Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected
 - Note: Students who complete this course with a (P) grade (75% or higher) will be eligible for selection by lottery for admission into the dental assisting program. Students must submit an official high school diploma or equivalent if they are selected to be a part of the program starting in August. Please see the catalog or website for program information.

This course is designed for all students interested in enrolling into the dental assisting program. The orientation course provides the student with detailed enrollment information and the health protocol standards for dental assisting students. Emphasis is placed on career pathways of dental assistants, professionalism, and dental assisting organizations. Guidelines from the California Dental Practice Act rules and regulations are presented in relationship to the dental assistant, registered dental assistant, and the registered dental assistant in extended functions. An overview of dental terminology, introduction to clinical instrumentation skills, and areas of planning and time management for the dental assisting student are covered. CSU

DENTL-150 Topics in Dental Assisting

- .3-4 units SC
- Variable hours

A supplemental course in dental assisting to provide a study of current concepts and methods in dental assisting and related subdivisions. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU

DENTL-160 Infection Control and California Dental Practice Act

- 3 units LR
- 36 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
 - Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
 - Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected
 - Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance into the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
 - Formerly DENTL-175 (22/23)

This course introduces the student to microbiology, infectious diseases, immunity, infection control in the dental office, agencies concerned with disease control, OSHA standards and guidelines, and hazard communication management. CSU

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DENTL-171 Oral and Facial Anatomy and Pathology

3.5 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/36 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB Clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected

This course introduces students to head and neck anatomy, embryology, histology, dentition, morphology and oral pathology. Emphasis is placed on the teeth, their supporting structures. CSU

DENTL-173 Dental Assisting Chairside Skills

3 units LR

- 36 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

Students will be introduced to the principles of chairside assisting. Emphasis is to be placed on operative procedures, which include chairside responsibilities, instrument identification, tray setups, four-handed techniques, and sequences of general dentistry procedures. Identification, care and maintenance of the operatory and equipment will also be presented. CSU

DENTL-174 Dental Operative and Laboratory Materials

3 units LR

- 36 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course introduces students to the study, characteristics, safe manipulation, and use of dental materials, laboratory equipment and instruments in operative and restorative dentistry. Emphasis is placed on infection control, safety standards, and hazard control protocols. CSU

DENTL-176 Anatomy, Physiology, Medical**Emergencies, and Pharmacology**

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.
- Formerly DENTL-181 (22-23)

This course prepares students to assist in the management of medical and dental emergencies, including review of legal and ethical responsibilities. General anatomy and physiology are introduced. Pathology of the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity and function of pharmacology are also covered. CSU

DENTL-180 Dental Office Management

3 units LR

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course covers front office management duties in the dental profession. These duties include dental staff management and interaction, patient management, written communication, telecommunication, bookkeeping/financial transactions, dental office documents, dental insurance, appointment management systems, dental software, recall systems, inventory systems, and supply ordering. Dental jurisprudence, related ethical concerns, and HIPAA compliance are presented in this course. CSU

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DENTL-182 Dental Radiography Laboratory

.5 unit LR

- 27 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-124 or equivalent
- Limitation of enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course emphasizes patient management, radiation safety and infection control procedures in accordance with Occupational and Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Center For Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and regulations from the California Dental Practice Act (DPA). The laboratory and clinical experiences will allow students to enhance the efficiency and quality of their radiographic techniques. Students will perform, evaluate, and interpret various types of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs using advanced principles and practices of dental radiography with emphasis on technique and diagnostic quality of dental x-rays. CSU

DENTL-183 Advanced Chairside

5 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/108 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-173 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course presents instruction in assisting and instrumentation for the following dental specialties: orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics, oral maxillofacial surgery, and public health. The theory and practice of coronal polishing and dental sealants are included. Completion of a dental health community service project is required. CSU

DENTL-184 Transition to Dental Assisting Professional

7 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/320 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENTL-174 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the DVC Dental Assisting program, including current TB Clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).
- Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course offers students supervised clinical experience in an externship environment. Students will provide chairside dental assisting in general practice, and specialty clinics. Course will discuss steps for licensure, RDA Exam Preparation and Professional Characteristics of a Dental Assistant. CSU

DENTL-299 Student Instructional Assistant

.5-3 units SC

- Variable hours
- Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.

Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU