Dental Assisting

**DENTAL ASSISTING – DENTL**

Joseph Gorga, Dean
Biological and Health 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 each fall term in August and the dental assisting courses will be completed by the middle of May. The two terms include classroom instruction as well as clinical experience in the DVC dental clinic, local dental schools and various dental offices.

In addition to the dental assisting classes the program requires nine units of general education that must be completed prior to graduating from the program and applying to take the state license and national examinations.

Entrance into the Diablo Valley College (DVC) Dental Assisting Program is highly competitive with enrollment limited to 24 students. To be eligible for enrollment, applicants must have a high school diploma or its equivalent and successfully pass DENTL-120 Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program, which is offered prior to enrollment for the fall term.

Prior to August 1, students who have successfully passed DENTL-120 and have been chosen to enroll in the program will be required to show: (1) proof of CPR (AHA/Health Care Provider) certification; (2) required immunizations/titers; (3) proof of negative one-step TB test; (4) results of a recent physical examination/screening; (5) results of a certified background check; and (6) results of a certified drug test. Reporting documents will be handed out during the orientation meeting.

To earn a 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.

For dental assisting program information contact the Coordinator of Dental Programs, Counseling Office, or DVC website.

**program prerequisite:**

DENTL-120 Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program

Note: It is strongly recommended to complete the required general education courses (*) prior to entering the dental assisting program in the fall term.

**major requirements:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENTL-120</td>
<td>Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENHY-124</td>
<td>Dental Radiography</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENHY-290</td>
<td>Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-171</td>
<td>Oral Facial Anatomy and Body Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-173</td>
<td>Dental Operative Procedures I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-174</td>
<td>Dental Materials and Laboratory Procedures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENTL-175</td>
<td>Infection Control and Theories of Dental Assisting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-180</td>
<td>Dental Office Management</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-181</td>
<td>Dental Emergencies, Pharmacology and Oral Pathology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-182</td>
<td>Dental Radiography Laboratory</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-183</td>
<td>Dental Operative Procedures II</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENTL-184</td>
<td>Clinical Experience</td>
<td>7</td>
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**plus at least 3 units from:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL-122*</td>
<td>First-Year College Composition and Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL-122A*</td>
<td>First-Year College English for Multilingual Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dental Assisting

Certificate of achievement
Dental assisting

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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.

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F. integrate and apply health literacy and culturally competent communication skills to oral health care services, academic endeavors, community projects, and professional activities.

PROGRAM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
DENTL-171  Oral Facial Anatomy and Body Systems  
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).  
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent  

This course introduces students to head and neck anatomy, general anatomy and body systems. Emphasis will be on the teeth, their supporting structures, and the respiratory and cardiovascular systems as they relate to monitoring patient sedation. CSU

DENTL-173  Dental Operative Procedures I  
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).  
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent  

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 Materials and Laboratory Procedures  
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).  
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent  

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-175  Infection Control and Theories of Dental Assisting  
3 units  LR  
- 36 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term  
- Prerequisite: DENTL-120 or equivalent  
- 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 certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with AED).  
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent  
- Note: This course meets the eligibility requirements for the certificate in Infection Control and the California Dental Practice Act required by the state for unlicensed Dental Assistants.  

This course introduces the student to microbiology, infectious diseases, immunity and infection control in the dental office. Topics include documenting medical/dental health histories; taking and recording vital signs; microbiology of dental decay and application of its relationship to the principles of oral hygiene; dental health related diet and nutrition; oral inspection, documentation, and dental charting; orientation to the roles, functions and duties of the members of the dental team. CSU

DENTL-180  Dental Office Management  
2 units  LR  
- 36 hours lecture per term  
- Prerequisite: DENTL-171 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).  
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent  

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
DENTL-181 Dental Emergencies, Pharmacology and Oral Pathology
2 units LR
- 36 hours lecture per term
- Co-requisite: DENTL-175 (may be taken concurrently or previously)
- 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).
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
This course prepares students to assist in the management of medical and dental emergencies, including review of legal and ethical responsibilities. Pathology of the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity and function of pharmacology are also covered. CSU

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).
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
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 Dental Operative Procedures II
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).
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
This course presents instruction in assisting and instrumentation for the following dental specialties: orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, pediatric dentistry, prosthetics, 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 Clinical Experience
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).
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
This course offers students supervised clinical experience in an externship environment. Students will provide chairside dental assisting in general practice, specialty clinics, and dental schools. 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