

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).

Program-level student learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes are subject to change. The most current list of program learning outcomes for each program is published on the DVC website at www.dvc.edu/slo.

**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 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.

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

<i>program prerequisite:</i>		<i>units</i>
DENTL-120	Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program.....	0.3

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

<i>major requirements:</i>		<i>units</i>
COMM-120*	Public Speaking	3
DENHY-124	Dental Radiography	3
DENHY-290	Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional.....	1
DENTL-171	Oral Facial Anatomy and Body Systems	3.5
DENTL-173	Dental Operative Procedures I.....	3
DENTL-174	Dental Materials and Laboratory Procedures	3
DENTL-175	Infection Control and Theories of Dental Assisting	3
DENTL-180	Dental Office Management	3
DENTL-181	Dental Emergencies, Pharmacology and Oral Pathology.....	2
DENTL-182	Dental Radiography Laboratory	0.5
DENTL-183	Dental Operative Procedures II.....	5
DENTL-184	Clinical Experience.....	7
ENGL-122*	Freshman English: Composition and Reading	3

<i>plus at least 3 units from:</i>		
PSYCH-101*	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYCH-122*	Psychology in Modern Life.....	3

total minimum required units 43.3

In addition, DVC GE Areas IC, II and III must be satisfied to complete AS degree requirements.

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**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 Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program.....	0.3

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

<i>required courses:</i>	<i>units</i>
DENHY-124 Dental Radiography	3
DENHY-290 Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional.....	1
DENTL-171 Oral Facial Anatomy and Body Systems	3.5
DENTL-173 Dental Operative Procedures I.....	3
DENTL-174 Dental Materials and Laboratory Procedures	3
DENTL-175 Infection Control and Theories of Dental Assisting	3
DENTL-180 Dental Office Management	3
DENTL-181 Dental Emergencies, Pharmacology and Oral Pathology.....	2
DENTL-182 Dental Radiography Laboratory	0.5
DENTL-183 Dental Operative Procedures II.....	5
DENTL-184 Clinical Experience.....	7

<i>plus at least 3 units from:</i>	
ENGL-116 College Reading Development	3
ENGL-117* Integrated College Reading and Writing Development	5
ENGL-118* College Writing Development	3
ENGL-122* Freshman English: Composition and Reading	3

<i>plus at least 3 units from:</i>	
PSYCH-101* Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYCH-122* Psychology in Modern Life.....	3

<i>plus at least 3 units from:</i>	
COMM-120* Public Speaking	3
COMM-130 Small Group Communication.....	3

total minimum required units 43.3

DENTL-110 Overview of the Dental Professions

- 1.5 units P/NP
- 27 hours lecture per term
 - Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
 - Note: This course is open to all students

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

DENTL-120 Orientation to the Dental Assisting Program

- .3 unit P/NP
- 6 hours lecture/3 hours laboratory per term
 - 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 will provide the student with detailed enrollment information and the health protocol standards for dental assisting students. Emphasis will be placed on laboratory asepsis, infection control and disease transmission. Career pathways of dental assisting, registered dental assisting, professionalism, malpractice insurance and dental assisting organizations will be discussed. Guidelines from the Dental Practice Act rules and regulations will be 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. 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-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

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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

3 units LR

- 54 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 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 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

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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, 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 Clinical Experience

7 units LR

- 27 hours lecture/300 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