

DENTAL ASSISTING, A.A.S.

Entry Time

Fall or Spring

Award

Associate of Applied Science degree after completion of additional required courses

2 years (4 terms)

Dental Assistants help the dentist at chair side and also perform functions such as polishing teeth, taking X-rays, mixing materials and sterilizing instruments. Some assistants also manage the office and patient accounts, schedule appointments and purchase supplies. During this program, students will gain classroom, laboratory and hands-on experience by working with patients at the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa and in private dental offices.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

Accreditation

The Dental Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of compliance without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Successful completion of the program entitles graduates to take the National Dental Assistant Certification Examination.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
312-440-4653

Career Opportunities

- private dental office
- clinics
- research/teaching
- consulting
- hospitals
- sales and insurance claims
- specialty practices such as orthodontics or children's dentistry

Degree Requirements

Term 1		Credit Hours
HSC-107	Professionals in Health ¹	2
HSC-210	Health Skills I ¹	1
DEN-110	Dental Terminology ^{1,2}	2
DEN-120	Dental Anatomy ^{1,2}	3
DEN-100	Fundamentals of Dentistry ²	3.5
DEA-403	Dental Materials ²	3

DEA-517	Dental Assisting I ²	3.5
	Term Totals:	18
Term 2		
DEA-580	Dental Assisting Clinic I ²	4
DEA-518	Dental Assisting II ²	1.5
DEN-300	Dental Radiography ²	3
DEA-285	Oral Pathology for Dental Assisting ^{1,2}	1
DEN-200	Preventive Dentistry ²	2
DEA-610	Specialty Dentistry ²	4.5
DEN-130	Head and Neck Anatomy ^{1,2}	1.5
	Term Totals:	17.5
Term 3		
DEA-519	Dental Assisting III ²	1.5
DEA-581	Dental Assisting Clinic II ²	4.5
DEN-220	Dental Nutrition ^{1,2}	1
	Select one of the following:	3
COM-222	Communication for Health Care Professionals ¹	
SPC-101	Fundamentals of Oral Communication ¹	
SPC-112	Public Speaking ¹	
DEA-701	Dental Office Procedures ²	1
	Term Totals:	11
Term 4		
ENG-105	Composition I ¹	3
PSY-111	Intro to Psychology ¹	3
MAT-772	Applied Math ¹	3
	Humanities or History/Culture Course (https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/) ¹	3
	Electives ¹	6
	Term Totals:	18
	Program Totals:	64.5

¹ Courses may be taken before beginning the program.

² Minimum C- required in all technical Dental Assisting courses and all DEN courses

Optional Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DEA-924	Honors Project	1
HSC-103	Studies in Health Sciences	1-3

This curriculum is for fall start. Curriculum for spring start is slightly different. Contact Allied Health for information.