



Wayne  
County  
Community  
College  
District

# Dental Assisting

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Dental Assisting College Certificate program provides students with the necessary training to perform the duties of a dental assistant, including assisting the dentist (chair side), providing patient education, performing laboratory procedures, exposing and processing x-rays and performing office management tasks such as billing and scheduling appointments.

In addition, the dental assistant who becomes licensed can provide expanded functions as delegated by Michigan law. Instruction runs concurrently with the laboratory instruction throughout the program.



Students gain clinical experience in clinical facilities and dental offices. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA). In addition, they are eligible to take the State of Michigan's Registered Dental Assistant Examination to become a licensed Registered Dental Assistant (RDA). The program in Dental Assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Post-Secondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education.

These Dental Assisting credit hours may be utilized towards an Associate Degree at WCCCD with additional coursework.

## WHAT DO DENTAL ASSISTANTS DO?

Dental assistants have many tasks, ranging from patient care to record keeping, in a dental office. Their duties vary by state and by the dental office where they work.

## WHERE DO THEY WORK?

Almost all dental assistants work in dental offices. More than half work full-time.

## PAY

The median annual wage of dental assistants was \$40,080 in May 2019.

## JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of dental assistants is expected to grow by 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to increase the demand for preventive dental services. As dental practices grow, more dental assistants will be needed.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, April 2020, Dental Assistants, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm>*

*Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) American Dental Association*



# Recommended Sequence of Courses

## Dental Assisting: College Certificate

**CR. No. COURSE TITLE CREDITS**

**SEMESTER 1**

DA 104	Dental Materials . . . . .	5
DA 106	Applied Sciences and Medical Emergencies . . . . .	4
DA 110	Clinical Dental Assisting . . . . .	4
DA 115	Infection Control and Preventive Dentistry . . . . .	2
DA 120	Dental Specialties . . . . .	2
DEN 200	Dental Radiology Theory . . . . .	2
DEN 201	Dental Radiology Lab . . . . .	2

**SEMESTER TOTAL . . . . .21**

**SEMESTER 2**

DA 117	Clinical Practice I . . . . .	5
DA 126	General Anatomy,Pharmacology and Oral Pathology . . . . .	3
DA 127	Dental Office Management . . . . .	2
DA 129	Legal, Ethical and Communication Issues . . . . .	2
DA 203	Expanded Functions for the Registered Dental Assistant . . . . .	3
DA 204	Expanded Functions for the Registered Dental Assistant Clinical Lab . . . . .	4

**SEMESTER TOTAL . . . . .19**

**SEMESTER 3**

DA 125	Clinical Practice II . . . . .	8
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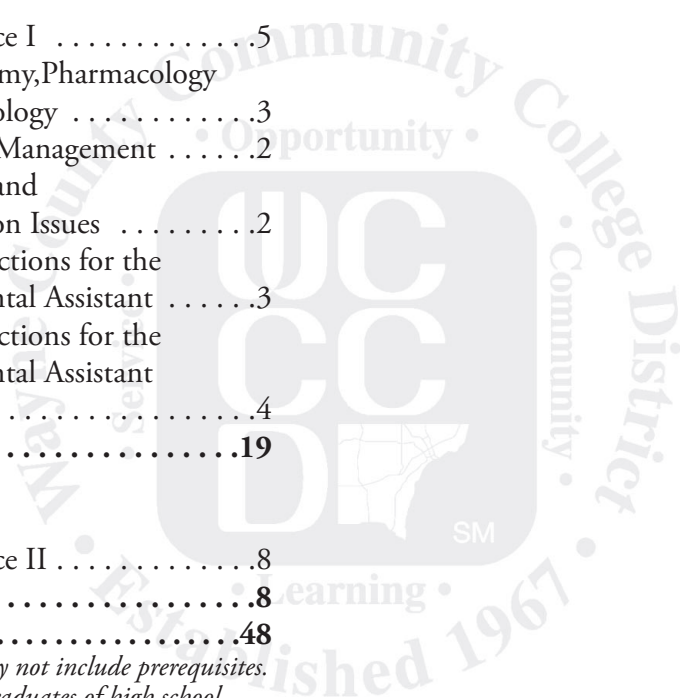
**SEMESTER TOTAL . . . . .8**

**CERTIFICATE TOTAL . . . . .48**

*Note: Certificate total hours may not include prerequisites.*

*\*\* This number may be less. Graduates of high school vocational-technical dental assisting programs and on-the-job trained dental assistants are eligible for advanced credit hours through the Prior Experience and Required Knowledge program (PERK).*

*Contact the program office for additional information.*



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