

The Dental Assisting Program is designed to meet the requirements of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Education for Dental Assistants. The program includes lecture and laboratory practice in the classroom. As part of their field experience, students are required to participate in internships in private offices and at the UCSF Dental School.

The program requires 32 semester units in Dental Assisting, plus 9 semester units in other general education required courses; for a total of 41 units. Students completing all required courses with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 ("C") will earn a Certificate of Achievement and be qualified to take the Certification Examination of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and the State of California RDA examinations; and will be prepared to assume the responsibilities of assisting the dentist in all phases of general and specialty practice.

The **AS degree in Dental Assisting** will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the Major Course Requirements and the General Education requirements. A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the Major Course Requirements..

Career Opportunities

This full-time curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Education for Dental Assistants. The program includes lecture and laboratory practice in the classroom. Clinical experience is required in the dental clinics of the University of California and the University of Pacific Dental Schools in San Francisco, as well as in private dental offices. Students completing all required courses with a minimum grade of 75% = C or better grade will earn a Certificate of Achievement and be qualified to take the Certification Examination of the DANB, the State of California RDA examinations, and will be prepared to assume the responsibilities of assisting the dentist in all phases of general practice. The program requires 28.5 semester units in Dental Assisting, plus 9 semester units in other general education required courses.

Admission is by special application directly to the Dental Assisting Department. The application deadline is April 15 of each year for admission into the program starting the following fall semester. The Dental Assisting Program is allowed to take up to 24 students each fall semester per CODA regulations. All completed applications will be placed in a lottery after the applicant has attended the first mandatory orientation. After the first 24 eligible applicants have been selected, all other applicants will be placed on a wait-list and informed in writing of any openings. Applicants will be notified by mail of acceptance into the Dental Assisting program. Applications received after April 15 will be accepted only on a space-available basis

Eligibility/Admission/Prerequisite and Degree/Certificate Requirements are as follows:

1. Completion of all Dental Assisting courses with a grade of 2.0 ("C") or better.
2. Possession of a high school diploma or the equivalent is required prior to application to and admission into the program.
3. Official transcripts must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office prior to program application.
4. Completion of HLTED 9 (2 units), First Aid and Safety; and HLTED 11, CPR (.5 units); OR possession of current cards from an approved provider are required prior to enrollment in the program.
5. Physical and dental examinations, and negative TB and hepatitis test results are required to be submitted to the Dental Assisting Department prior to enrollment in the program.
6. It is highly recommended (but not required) that the following be completed prior to admission into the program and enrollment in Fall term courses: DENTL 251, Dental Terminology and CIS 205, Computer Literacy.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program a student will be able to:

- Apply critical thinking to all aspects of the dental field.
- Communicate in written and verbal form according to terminology of the dental field.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural sensitivity within the field of dental assisting.
- Demonstrate self discipline to pursue intellectual curiosities with integrity in both personal and professional lives.

Degree Major/Certificate Requirements

DEPT/NO.	TITLE	UNITS
DENTL 220A	Infection Control and Oral Health	2
DENTL 220B	Infection Control and Coronal Polish	1
DENTL 221	Professional Standards	.5
DENTL 222	Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems	3.5
DENTL 223	Chairside Procedures	3
DENTL 224A	Dental Radiology I	3
DENTL 225	Dental Materials and Lab Procedures	3
DENTL 224B	Dental Radiology II	2
DENTL 226	Advanced Chairside Procedures	3
DENTL 227	Biodental Sciences	2
DENTL 228A	Clinical Rotations and Review	2
DENTL 228B	Clinical Rotations and Internship	5
DENTL 229	Practice Management	1.5
DENTL 230	Pit and Fissure Sealants	.5

Complete the following 9 units at any time:

ENGL 201B*	Preparation for Composition and Reading	3
PSYCH 1A	Introduction to General Psychology	3
COMM 1A	Introduction to Speech (3)	3
COMM 20	Interpersonal Communication (3)	
COMM 45	Public Speaking (3)	

Total Required Units: 41

*A higher level English course, such as Engl 1A, may be substituted for Engl 201B.

Recommended Course Sequence

	COURSE	UNITS	REQUIREMENT	COA GE AREA	
FALL 1	DENTL 220A Infection Control and Oral Health	2	Major		
	DENTL 220B Infection Control and Coronal Polish	1	Major		
	DENTL 221 Professional Standards	0.5	Major		
	DENTL 222 Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems	3.5	Major		
	DENTL 223 Chairside Procedures	3	Major		
	DENTL 224A Dental Radiology I	3	Major		
	DENTL 225 Dental Materials and Lab Procedures	3	Major		
Total Number of Units		16			
SPRING 1	DENTL 224B Dental Radiology II	2	Major		
	DENTL 226 Advanced Chairside Procedures	3	Major		
	DENTL 227 Biodental Sciences	2	Major		
	DENTL 228A Clinical Rotations and Review	2	Major		
	DENTL 228B Clinical Rotations and Internship	6	Major		
	DENTL 229 Practice Management	2	Major		
	DENTL 230 Pit and Fissure Sealants	0.5	Major		
Total Number of Units		17.5			
SUMMER 1	DENTL 251 Dental Terminology ¹	1			
Total Number of Units		1			
FALL 2	ENGL 1A Composition and Reading or ENGL 1AS Composition and Reading (w/ support)	4 or 5	Major	4A	
	PSYCH 1A Introduction to General Psychology	3	Major	2	
	COMM 1A Introduction to Speech or COMM 20 Interpersonal Communication Skills or COMM 45 Public Speaking	3	Major	4D	
	MUSIC 15A Jazz, Blues and Popular Music in the American Culture or HIST 19 History of California	3	GE	3 & 5	
	Total Number of Units		13-14		
	SPRING 2	ANTHR 1 Introduction to Physical Anthropology or GEOG 1 Physical Geography	3	GE	1
MATH 13 Introduction to Statistics (+213 Support Course)		4 or 6	GE	4B	
LIS 85 Introduction to Information Resources or BIOL 31 Nutrition		2 or 4	GE	4C	
SOC 1 Introduction to Sociology or SOC 5 Minority Groups		3	Elective	2 or 2 & 5	
Total Number of Units		12-16			

¹ Course is highly recommended.

Please meet with a counselor to develop a personalized education plan to help you meet your specific goals.

Recommended Course Sequence

FALL 1

	COURSE	UNITS	REQUIREMENT
	DENTL 220A Infection Control and Oral Health	2	Major
	DENTL 220B Infection Control and Coronal Polish	1	Major
	DENTL 221 Professional Standards	0.5	Major
	DENTL 222 Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems	3.5	Major
	DENTL 223 Chairside Procedures	3	Major
	DENTL 224A Dental Radiology I	3	Major
	DENTL 225 Dental Materials and Lab Procedures	3	Major
Total Number of Units		16	

SPRING 1

	DENTL 224B Dental Radiology II	2	Major
	DENTL 226 Advanced Chairside Procedures	3	Major
	DENTL 227 Biodental Sciences	2	Major
	DENTL 228A Clinical Rotations and Review	2	Major
	DENTL 228B Clinical Rotations and Internship	6	Major
	DENTL 229 Practice Management	2	Major
	DENTL 230 Pit and Fissure Sealants	0.5	Major
Total Number of Units:		17.5	

SUMMER 1

	DENTL 251 Dental Terminology ¹	1	
Total Number of Units:		1	

FALL 2

	ENGL 1A Composition and Reading or	4 or 5	Major
	ENGL 1AS Composition and Reading (w/ support)		
	PSYCH 1A Introduction to General Psychology	3	Major
	COMM 1A Introduction to Speech or	3	Major
	COMM 20 Interpersonal Communication Skills or		
	COMM 45 Public Speaking		
Total Number of Units:		10-11	

¹ Course is highly recommended.

Please meet with a counselor to develop a personalized education plan to help you meet your specific goals.

Dental Assisting (DENTL)

The Dental Assisting Program at College of Alameda is a national and state accredited program.

Dental Assisting is the study of the dental healthcare industry. Coursework addresses the various issues surrounding patient dental care and oral health. This program includes California Dental law, ethics, professionalism, infection control, head and neck anatomy, dental radiology, dental materials, chair-side skills, coronal polish, and pit and fissure sealants.

The fall semester courses introduce basic theory and chairside skills, leading to more advanced studies courses during the spring semester, which also include internships and advanced use of technology within dentistry. A **Certificate of Achievement** is awarded upon successful completion of the program. The Dental Assisting Program prepares you for the California Registered Dental Assistant and National Certified Dental Assistant exams.

The program seeks individuals who enjoy interaction with people, teamwork, have good communications skills, enjoy variety in their work and enjoy excellent working opportunities and conditions. Dental Assisting is a rewarding and stable career.

DENTL 220A

Infection Control and Oral Health

- 2 units, 1.5 hours lecture, 2 hours laboratory (GR) (12 weeks)
- Corequisite: DENTL 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Introduction to infection control and oral health: Emphasis on infection control and disinfection techniques for patient and occupational protection; disease transmission, microbiology, and application of Cal-DOSH (OSHA) blood-borne pathogens standards, Dental Board Infection Control guidelines, and CDC recommendations for healthcare settings; relationship and value of nutrition in promoting good oral health. 1240.10

DENTL 220B

Infection Control and Coronal Polish

- 1 unit, .5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours laboratory (GR) (5 weeks)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A
- Corequisite: DENTL 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Introduction to infection control and coronal polish: Emphasis on coronal polish, infection control, sterilization and disinfection techniques, and legal considerations for patient and occupational protection; application of Cal-DOSH (OSHA) blood-borne pathogens standards, Dental Board Infection Control guidelines, and CDC recommendations for healthcare settings; principles of tooth polishing and plaque and stain formation, indications and contra-indications of coronal polishing, polishing agent composition and storage and handling; characteristics, manipulation, and care of dental hand pieces; nutritional information for good oral health and preventative care. 1240.10

DENTL 221

Professional Standards

- .5 units, 0.5 hours lecture (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220
- Corequisite: DENTL 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 45

Introduction and hands-on orientation to the dental assisting profession and the career of dentistry: Study of nutrition, health, professionalism, history of dentistry and allied organizations; emphasis on licensure and certification, the duties of chairside assistants, the legal ramifications of dentistry, ethics and jurisprudence. 1240.10

DENTL 222

Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems

- 3.5 units, 3 hours lecture, 1.5 hours laboratory (GR)
- Corequisite: DENTL 220 and 221 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 45

Introduction to general anatomy, body systems, and head and neck anatomy: Emphasis on the teeth and their supporting structures. 1240.10

DENTL 223**Chairside Procedures**

- 3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)
- Prerequisite: HLTED 9 and 11, or current First Aid and CPR cards; and health clearances: physical and dental examinations, and negative TB and hepatitis test results
- Corequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 224A and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Principles of chairside assisting: Operative procedures including chairside responsibilities, instrument identification, four-handed techniques, sequences of dental procedures and dental anesthesia; maintenance of dental equipment and operatory systems. 1240.10

DENTL 224A**Dental Radiology I**

- 3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)
- Corequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 225
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Basic principles of radiation and radiation safety and protection: Elementary anatomic landmarks for exposing dental radiographs on X-ray mannequins using bisecting and parallel techniques; radiological terminology and vocabulary including basic digital radiography; radiologic infection control; and proficiency, through examination, in radiation safety and protection techniques as required by ADA accrediting standards. 1240.10

DENTL 224B**Dental Radiology II**

- 2 units, 1 hour lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Corequisite: DENTL 226 and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Advanced principles of radiation and radiation safety and protection: Intermediate and advanced principles of radiology including film placement, angulations and exposures; anatomical identification and interpretation of radiologic images; specialty radiographic procedures such as digital radiographs, occlusal films, and pedo FMX; experience in exposing film on human subjects and advanced darkroom/processing procedures; and community service project serving underserved population within the local area. 1240.10

DENTL 225**Dental Materials and Lab Procedures**

- 3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)
- Corequisite: DENTL 220 and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A
- Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 45

Study and safe manipulation of dental materials used in operative and restorative dental procedures: Use of instruments and lab equipment, safety and health hazards, and patient safety. 1240.10

DENTL 226**Advanced Chairside Procedures**

- 3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Corequisite: DENTL 224B and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Advanced study of dental specialties: Endodontics, pediatrics, oral surgery, orthodontics, and periodontics to reflect Dental Board of California educational requirements and preparation for the California Registered Dental Assistant examination. 1240.10

DENTL 227**Biodental Sciences**

- 2 units, 2 hours lecture (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 222
- Corequisite: DENTL 228
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 45

Introduction to biodental sciences: Emphasis on oral pathology relating to occupational hazards; identification of oral lesions and dental pharmacology; preparation for office emergencies, both medical and dental; legal responsibility of assistants; and patient health and safety. 1240.10

DENTL 228A**Clinical Rotations and Review**

- 2 units, 2 hours lecture (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Corequisite: DENTL 224B and 226 and 227 and 228B and 229
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 20 or 45

Advanced study of specialty areas in dentistry: Restorative and preventative materials, amalgam, composites, sealants, prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, and pediatrics. 1240.10

DENTL 228B**Clinical Rotations and Review**

- 6 units, 18 hours laboratory, 300 off-site clinical hours (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Corequisite: DENTL 224B and 226 and 227 and 228A and 229

Application of practical chairside skills in clinical rotations at private dental offices and local dental schools: Manipulation of dental materials, front office skills, and care of the dental patient during dental procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 229**Practice Management**

- 2 units, 1.5 hours lecture, 2 hours lab (GR)
- Corequisite: DENTL 228
- Recommended preparation: BUS 230D-F, and CIS 205, and DENTL 251 and 252, and ENGL 201B or higher, and PSYCH 1A, and COMM 1A or 45

Practice of dental office management duties and responsibilities: Receptionist and office management duties including patient relationships, telephone techniques, inventory control, chart management, dental records, correspondence, filing, appointment and recall systems; computer program skills to include dental software relating to accounts payable/receivable, insurance forms, and banking procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 230**Pit and Fissure Sealants**

- 0.5 units, 0.34 hour lecture, 0.51 hour laboratory (GR)
- Prerequisite: DENTL 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225
- Corequisite: DENTL 224B and 226 and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229
- Recommended preparation: DENTL 251 and 252

Legal requirements and scope of practice as related to Pit and Fissure Sealants: Morphology of the teeth; I identify indication and contraindications of Pit and Fissure Sealants; importance of documentation; infection control, equipment and armamentarium needed as well as instrument grasp, fulcrum techniques and application of materials. 1240.10

DENTL 251**Dental Terminology**

- 1 unit, 1 hour lecture (GR)

Introduction to dental terminology: Terminology related to body structure, pathological conditions and diseases; operative terms and techniques including laboratory diagnostic procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 252**Overview of the Dental Assisting Profession**

- 1 unit, 1 hour lecture (GR or P/NP)

Introductory study and basic overview of the dental assisting profession including professionalism, restorative materials, infection control procedures, and dental techniques including laboratory procedures. 1240.10

NONCREDIT COURSES**DENTL 521****Professional Standards**

- 0 units, 2 hours lecture (P/NP or Satisfactory progress)

Legal ramifications of dentistry: Emphasis on licensure and certification, duties of the dental assistant, Ethics and jurisprudence, professionalism, history of dentistry and allied organizations. Introduction and orientation to the dental assisting profession and career of dentistry. 1240.10

DENTL 551**Dental Terminology**

- 0 units, 1 hour lecture (P/NP or Satisfactory progress)

Introduction to dental terminology: Terminology related to body structure, pathological conditions and diseases; operative terms and techniques including laboratory diagnostic procedures. 1240.10