

What Does a Dental Assistant Do?

Dental assistants are valuable members of the dental healthcare team who work closely with the dentist at chairside during dental procedures to provide patient care. They prepare the patient for treatment, transfer instruments to the dentist, operate dental equipment, mix dental materials, take x-rays and impressions, maintain patient treatment records, and manage required infection control protocols.

Depending upon your employer or the setting in which you work, your dental assisting career, under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, may include other responsibilities:

Dental Practice Management

Staffing and managing a growing practice or clinic

Laboratory Assistant

Fabricating bleaching trays, mouth guards, study models and managing outsourced laboratory cases

Administrative Assistant

Maintaining practice data, including patient scheduling, billing and insurance claims management



Employment Options

Opportunities for change and variety characterize the range of career options in dental assisting that includes the following:

- Solo practice
- Group practice
- Specialty practice
- Public health dentistry
- Hospital dental clinics
- Insurance companies
- Teaching
- Dental product sales

Employment Outlook

Both the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Connecticut Department of Labor are predicting a high growth rate well into the next decade for the dental assistant field. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, "Employment of dental assistants is expected to grow by 31 percent from 2010 to 2020, 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."



Dental Assistant Educational Requirements

The thirty-six credit Dental Assistant program curriculum is a mix of science and hands-on/practical courses that may be completed in less than one year. The program includes communication and psychology courses that prepare the student for work in this challenging field. In addition, students complete 300 hours of clinical practicum in dental clinics and private practices to develop competency in procedures that are learned in the classroom and college laboratory.

The program prepares students to successfully complete the State-required Radiation Health and Safety component of the Dental Assisting National Board examination that students are scheduled to take during the Spring semester.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite **Program courses require eligibility for the following:**

ENG* 101 Composition
MAT*109 or higher Quantitative Literacy

Dental Assistant Program Courses

DAS* 131	Oral Anatomy and Pathophysiology	3
DAS* 133	Dental Radiography	4
DAS* 136	Infection Control in Dentistry	1
DAS* 135	Dental Practice Management	2
BIO* 115	Human Biology	4
PSY* 111	General Psychology I	3
DAS* 123	Chairside Dental Assisting	4
DAS* 132	Dental Materials	4
DAS* 134	Oral Health Promotion	1
DAS* 200	Dental Assistant Clinical Practicum	1
DAS* 143	Advanced Dental Radiography	4
COM* 172	Interpersonal Communications or	
COM* 173	Public Speaking	3
DAS* 201	Dental Assistant Clinical Practicum	2

Total Program Credits 36

Students who wish to enroll in the program must attend an information session and submit a completed Health Career Program Application. For further information and to obtain an application, visit www.manchestercc.edu/health or contact the Health Careers Division office (LRC A237) at 860-512-2704.

Why Choose MCC?

- Our tuition is affordable.
- We have state-of-the-art academic facilities and offer plenty of free parking.
- Our small class size means you'll know your professors—and they'll know you.
- Our campus is conveniently located, near I-84 and I-384 in Manchester.
- Our class schedules needn't overlap with your work schedule.
- Our reputation helps you transfer into the very best baccalaureate colleges.
- Our certificate programs prepare you for quick entry into an exciting career.
- Our career and cooperative education services help you get the job you want—both while you're in school and after graduation.
- We are the only community college in the country nationally recognized for academic excellence by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Dental Assistant program is part of the Connecticut Health & Life Sciences Career Initiative. The Connecticut Health & Life Sciences Career Initiative is 100% funded by a \$12.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration TAACCCT.

Manchester Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, political belief, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information or criminal record. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Affirmative Action and Staff Development Coordinator (Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator), Manchester Community College; Great Path, MS #2; Manchester, CT 06040; Student Services Center L143c; 860-512-3107. 3/14/PR

The college reserves the right to make any necessary changes in the information listed in this publication.

Dental Assistant Certificate Program



**Developing Skills to Perform
in the 21st Century Workplace**



MANCHESTER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE