

DENTAL ASSISTING

Train for a career supporting dentists in all phases of patient care and dental office operations. Students develop hands-on skills in a simulated dental clinic and gain practical experience through off-site clinical rotations. This program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (ADA).

chairside assisting | office management | dental radiography | impressions | infection control | lab procedures | patient communication & education



Suggested Abilities

- 8th grade English reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Understand basic algebra
- Sustained activity for 5 hours at a time

Prerequisites

- Successfully pass the entrance exam or provide acceptable documentation of reading level
- Must be 18 or older by semester 3 & 4
- Must provide high school diploma, or equivalent certification for employment
- *High School Students: Meet with a counselor for eligibility requirements*

Class Hours

- Morning: 7:50am - 10:40am, Mon. - Fri.
- Afternoon: 12:05pm - 2:55pm, Mon. - Fri.
- Semester 1 & 2 are available as half day (completed in 2 terms), or full day (completed in 1 term)
- Semester 3 & 4 are only available as full day (completed in 1 term)

SEMESTER 1

DEA 1011 Introduction to Dental Practices

1 credit

History, legal and ethical responsibilities, and functions of professional dental team roles.

DEA 1012 Dental Science I

3 credits

Oral structures as they apply to oral histology, embryology, morphology, pathology, dental anatomy, and dental charting.

DEA 1015 Infection Control

3 credits

Infection and disease transmission in dental offices: microorganisms, sterilization, and hazardous communication.

DEA 1016 Medical Emergencies in Dental Office

2 credits

Reading vital signs, CPR for healthcare providers. Recognizing, preventing, and managing dental-office medical emergencies. Includes CPR certification training.

DEA 1024 Dental Radiography

3 credits

Focuses on the science of radiography, the application of radiographic techniques, and aseptic techniques.

SEMESTER 2

DEA 1014 Dental Science III

3 credits

Oral pathologies, microorganisms, pharmacology for oral pain/treatment, and laboratory procedures for anesthesia.

DEA 1021 Principles of Clinical Practice

3 credits

Four-handed dentistry techniques, instrument identification, tray setup armamentarium, and sterilization and aseptic procedures.

DEA 1023 Dental Materials I

3 credits

Includes fundamentals of dental materials as they apply to clinical and laboratory applications.

DEA 1031 Prevention and Nutrition in Dentistry

3 credits

Preventive dentistry techniques: fluoride application, oral home care instruction, nutrition and diet counseling, and coronal polishing.

SEMESTER 3

DEA 1033 Dental Materials II

3 credits

Includes type, compositions, and uses of elastomeric impression materials and the fabrication of custom impression trays and temporary crowns.

DEA 1035 Dental Office Management

3 credits

Includes office management and clerical practices, scheduling appointments, completing daily records, insurance and tax forms, bookkeeping and recall systems, and ordering supplies.

DEA 1080 Clinical Internship

3 credits

Includes the opportunity for clinical application of dental assisting techniques in a dental office or clinical setting as part of the American Dental Association's requirement of 300 clinical internship hours.

DEA 1081 Clinical Internship I

2 credits

Includes the opportunity for clinical application of dental assisting techniques in a dental office or clinical setting as part of the American Dental Association's requirement of 300 clinical internship hours.

SEMESTER 4

DEA 1013 Dental Science II

3 credits

Human anatomy and physiology focused on the head and neck for dental assisting: maxilla, mandible, processes, foramina, sutures, and major nerves and blood vessels.

DEA 1022 Specialties in Dentistry

2 credits

Tray setups for periodontics, endodontics, and prosthodontics. Pediatric dentistry, oral surgery, and implants.

DEA 1034 Advanced Dental Radiography

3 credits

intra- and extra-oral radiograph techniques for adults, children, edentulous, and special-needs patients; dental anatomy interpretation, aseptic procedures, and hands-on practice.

DEA 1082 Clinical Internship II

4 credits

Focuses on clinical practice in private or public dental offices or clinics with clinical work experience in both general dentistry and specialty fields on a rotating basis.

Dental Assisting Certificate

1 to 1.5 Years

46 Credit Hours



Information Revised DEC '25. Information subject to change. Course listings have been paraphrased on this flyer, for full course info please see Pickens Catalog. This certificate is eligible for Financial Aid. If you have further questions, please call (303)344-4910.