

# DENTAL ASSISTING

[pcc.edu/programs/dental-assisting](http://pcc.edu/programs/dental-assisting)

## CAREER AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The dental assistant is a member of the dental team, working with and assisting the dentist and hygienist during clinical procedures. Traditional duties and responsibilities include: exposing and developing dental radiographs, mixing dental materials, organizing and preparing treatment rooms, passing dental instruments and materials to the dentist, taking impressions, preparing, placing and removing rubber dams, placing topical anesthetic, fluoride and desensitizing agents, sterilizing instruments, disinfecting dental equipment, comforting patients during dental appointments and educating patients on various dental procedures. Graduates are also prepared to perform the following expanded duties: polish teeth and restorations, fabricate and cement temporary crowns, remove cement, place temporary restorations, place and remove matrix retainers, place sealants, perform temporary denture relines, place retraction cord and various orthodontic duties.

Computer skills are an important asset to a dental assistant. Students should be familiar with basic computer key boarding skills. Dental computer programs are learned in the office procedures courses.

The Dental Assisting program is a limited entry program with restricted enrollment. The program is limited to 45 students. Applications are accepted from January 2 to July 1.

Health Admissions Office

Sylvania Campus, (CC) 208  
Portland Community College  
P.O. Box 19000  
Portland, Oregon 97280-0990

For information call 971-722-4795 or check the website:  
[www.pcc.edu/da](http://www.pcc.edu/da).

Candidates will be notified of their admission status by late July.

## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED

### ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Dental Assisting

Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

### Academic Prerequisites

- High school diploma or college transcripts showing a minimum 2.0 GPA, or GED.
- Completion of the following courses or their equivalents, with a "C" or better, is required to be considered for application to the Dental Assisting Program.
  - WR 115 or IRW 115 or higher level writing course (Placement into WR 121Z can substitute for the WR 115 and IRW 115 course).
  - MP 111 must be completed prior to enrolling in any Dental Assisting courses.
  - A College Success Course of 2 or more credits or completion of any other college course with 2 or more credits (in addition to MP 111) with a grade of "C" or better.
- Pass/No Pass grades are not acceptable in prerequisites.
- The Dental Assisting program is a limited entry program with restricted enrollment.
  - The program is limited to 45 students. Applications are accepted from October 1 to April 15. Application forms may be obtained at [www.pcc.edu/da](http://www.pcc.edu/da) and should be submitted along with high school and college transcripts to:
    - Health Admissions Office  
Sylvania Campus, (CC) Room 208

Portland Community College  
P.O. Box 19000  
Portland, Oregon 97280-0990

- For information call 971-722-4795 or check the website [www.pcc.edu/da](http://www.pcc.edu/da).  
Candidates will be notified of their admission status by late May.

### Academic Requirements

- None

### Non-Academic Prerequisites

- 12 hours of shadowing in a dental office or clinic facility that is documented by dentist's signature with the dentist's business card attached.
- Applicants should have all program prerequisite courses and job shadowing experiences completed by the end of winter term. Courses planned for spring term will not be considered for the current year's application process. It is the applicant's responsibility to update their information by providing final grades of courses which are in progress at the time of application.
- All students are required to be immunized against Hepatitis B as well as evidence of immunity to measles, tetanus immunization and current tuberculin skin test (TST). Test must be within previous 12 months. Positive TST will require evidence of normal chest x-ray (supply upon acceptance).
- A valid (current) Healthcare Provider CPR that includes Adult, Child, Infant and AED is required.

### Non-Academic Requirements

- Criminal Background Check
  - All PCC students enrolled in a health care or child care program, including Dental Assisting, with requirements for practical experience of field training must pass a Criminal History Check (CHC) and a drug screen as a condition of their acceptance into a medical or other facility for training.
  - Students who do not pass the CHC and drug screen are not eligible to complete training at affiliated practicum sites, to sit for licensure or certification exams; or be hired for some professional positions. If you believe that your past history may interfere with your ability to complete the program of study or to obtaining licensure, or certification in your chosen field, you should contact the appropriate state board or program director.
- The Dental Assisting Certificate prepares the student for job entry with State and National certification in dental radiology, basic dental assisting and expanded function dental assisting.
- Students enrolled in the Dental Assisting Program perform exposure prone procedures and are required to wear safety glasses, gloves, face masks and protective clothing during all laboratory and clinic activities that produce airborne particulate matter, or expose students to patients during dental procedures. An exposure prone procedure is one in which there is an increased opportunity for the exchange of blood borne pathogens between the patient and the dental health care provider because of the kind of procedure being performed.
- Safety policies, procedures and protocols are taught and followed according to OSHA regulations and CDC Standards to provide a safe learning and patient care environment. The program policies on blood borne pathogens and infectious disease are available to applicants upon request. Upon acceptance to the program, extensive training in this area will occur.
- Applicants who have an infectious disease or who are carriers of an infectious disease should seek counsel from their physician and the program director prior to application. The college follows CDC suggested work restrictions for health-care personnel infected with or exposed to major infectious diseases in health care settings, from the CDC's Guidelines for Infection Control

in Dental Healthcare Settings–2003 available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm), Table 1, attached to and incorporated by this reference to this policy.

- All aspects of the Dental Assisting Program are continually assessed to provide on-going excellence and continuing improvement, and are subject to change.

**DENTAL ASSISTING ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Minimum 45 credits. Students must meet all certificate requirements.

**Dental Assisting Certificate Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
DA 110	Clinical Procedures I §	3
or DA 110A & DA 110B	Clinical Procedures IA Lecture and Clinical Procedures IB Lecture	
DA 111	Clinical Procedures I (Lab) §	2
or DA 111A & DA 111B	Clinical Procedures IA Lab and Clinical Procedures IB Lab	
DA 112	Clinical Procedures II	1
DA 113	Clinical Procedures II (Lab) §	3
DA 114	Clinical Procedures III	1
DA 115	Clinical Procedures Lab III §	5
DA 116	The Whole Patient - Ethical, Legal, and Medical Implications §	2
DA 117	Infection Control	1
DA 118	Expanded Duties I §	1
DA 119	Expanded Duties II §	1
DA 120	Dental Radiology I §	2
DA 121	Dental Radiology I (Lab)	2
DA 122	Dental Radiology II	1
DA 123	Dental Radiology II (Lab) §	2
DA 125	Dental Radiology III (Lab) §	2
DA 130	Dental Materials I	1
DA 131	Dental Materials I (Lab) §	2
DA 132	Dental Materials II §	1
DA 133	Dental Materials II (Lab) §	2
DA 135	Dental Materials III (Lab) §	2
DA 140A	Integrated Basic Science I	2
DA 142	Integrated Basic Science III	2
DA 150	Dental Office Procedures I §	2
DA 152	Dental Office Procedures II §	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>45</b>

§ Course contains Related Instruction and cannot be substituted with another course; Related Instruction details can be viewed here.