



DENTAL ASSISTANT

Program Learning Objectives

The Dental Assistant program includes 30 modules that will prepare learners for national certification exams and a career in dental health care where learners are prepared to enter the workforce and take the RDA (Registered Dental Assistant) and NELDA (National Entry Level Dental Assistant) certification exams. The learning objectives outlined below provide a map of the knowledge and skills you learners gain as they complete each module.

Introduction to Dental Assisting (12 hours)

- Identify key figures in the history of dentistry
- Describe the characteristics that differentiate professional dental assistants from any other job
- Identify roles within the dental healthcare team

Dental Ethics (8 hours)

- Identify the essential skills, qualities, duties, and strategies of an effective medical administrative assistant.
- Identify employer expectations and name medical office industry certifications. Identify the members of a medical team and their responsibilities.

Oral Embryology and Histology (9 hour)

- Define embryology and histology
- Identify and describe the various tissues and development stages of teeth
- Name and distinguish between the different types of teeth and identify their functions

Tooth Morphology (10 hours)

- Distinguish between features of each tooth
- Identify each permanent tooth and its location
- Identify the reasons a patient should seek dental care
- State the varying cavity classifications

Disease Transmission and Infection Transmission (11 hours)

- Describe the ways that infections and diseases can be transmitted in a dental office
- Identify the importance of hand care and proper hand hygiene for dental assistants
- Identify the principles and techniques of disinfection

Principles and Techniques of Instrument Processing and Sterilization (10 hours)

- Identify and describe the most common methods of dental instrument processing and sterilization
- List the advantages of proper sterilization
- Identify the techniques used to minimize moisture during dental procedures
- Describe the types of oral evacuation systems

Dental Caries (10 hours)

- Define dental caries and identify risk factors
- Identify possible methods of oral bacteria transmission
- Identify the two types of periodontal diseases
- Work on resume. Final edition due final week

Principles of Pharmacology (9 hours)

- Identify the difference between a drug's

chemical, trade, and generic names

- Describe prescription drugs classifications and their effects
- Identify and describe the different instrument transfer techniques and various grasps used when performing an expanded function
- List the specific items to be set out for treatment of a patient

Dental Hand Instruments (10 hours)

- Identify the commonly used instruments for examination and restorative procedures
- Describe the functions and importance of the dental handpiece
- Identify the differences between the varying types of dental handpieces

Foundations of Radiology, Radiographic Equipment and Radiologic Safety (11 hours)

- Describe how dental imaging is used
- Identify and describe dental x-ray processes and components
- Identify risks and benefits of dental images
- Describe the effects on the human body from radiation exposure

Preventative Dentistry (10 hours)

- Define the goal of preventative dentistry and describe its components
- Identify the purpose, methods, and effects of administering fluoride therapy

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- Identify legal issues the effect dental radiography
- Describe the components and purpose of quality assurance
- Define infection control protocol

Intraoral Imaging (11 hours)

- Identify the components in preparing a patient for dental imaging
- Identify the core intraoral imaging techniques and list the basic rules for each
- Identify and describe the equipment used in extraoral imaging
- Describe the purpose of the different extraoral film projections

Chemical Waste Management (9 hours)

- Describe the components of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
- Identify how chemicals should be stored
- Identify the types of toxic waste generated in a dental office and how they are to be packaged for transport
- Define ergonomics and identify exercises used to reduce eyestrain and neck strain

Vital Signs (10 hours)

- Identify how to determine a patient's baseline health status using the four vital signs
- Describe how to take a patient's pulse and blood pressure
- Identify the clinical considerations that should be taken into account for patients with varying needs and conditions

Assisting in Medical Emergencies (7 hours)

- Identify the criteria for a medical emergency and the roles of each staff member during an emergency
- Midterm Review
- Take CPR class by this week

Midterm Exam (4 hours)

Head and Neck Anatomy (1 hour)

- Identify bones and muscles in the

head and neck

- Identify and describe the joints and blood vessels in the head and neck

Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity (6 hours)

- Identify the landmarks of the face and oral cavity
- List the functions of the taste buds

Anesthesia and Pain Control (6 hours)

- Describe the chemical makeup of local anesthetic agents and their proper application
- Identify the proper use of general anesthesia in dentistry

Restorative and Esthetic Dental Materials (7 hours)

- Identify the differences between direct and indirect restorative materials
- Identify the properties and composition of the various restorative materials

Dental Liners, Bases and Bonding Systems (10 hours)

- Identify the use and purpose of cavity liner, varnish, dental base, and dentin in the restoration process
- Identify the difference between permanent and temporary cements

Impression Materials (10 hours)

- Identify the types of impressions taken for dental procedures
- Describe the types of impression trays and materials used when taking impressions
- Describe dental laboratory safety precautions
- Identify types of equipment typically found in a dental laboratory

General Dentistry (8 hours)

- Identify the components in the process of cavity preparation
- Identify the difference between Class II, III and IV restorations and the why a matrix system is essential
- Identify the most common types of matrix systems

Coronal Polishing (10 hours)

- Define and describe prophylaxis and coronal polishing
- List the types of extrinsic stains
- Identify the different types of dental sealants and their purpose

Provisional Coverage (9 hours)

- Identify the different kinds of provisional coverage and the appropriate home care instructions
- List the different types of dental implants
- Describe the surgical procedure for implantation

Fixed Prosthesis (10 hours)

- Identify the components of a fixed bridge
- Identify the procedural components for preparation and placement of a crown
- Identify components and differences between partial dentures and full dentures

Endodontics (10 hours)

- Identify the types of endodontic procedures
- Describe root canal therapy
- Define the dental assistant's role in a periodontal practice
- Identify instruments used in periodontics

Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (11 hours)

- Describe oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Identify and list the instruments used for a forceps extraction
- Identify effective behavioral techniques that work in the treatment of children

Orthodontics (9 hour)

- Explore corrective orthodontics and identify treatment types
- Define proper relationship etiquette between the dental team and the patient
- Identify components of professional phone courtesies

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Financial Management in the Dental Office (12 hours)

- Discover the importance of computerized financial management systems
- Identify the importance of collections
- Define insurance fraud
- Describe dental insurance and all parties involved
- State the components in claim forms processing
- Define your career goals and identify potential career opportunities
- Describe the components of a job interview, negotiating salary, and steps that will lead to success in career objectives
- Submit resume - final edition

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