

Dental Assistant Entry Level

INDUSTRY FACTS



What do dental assistants do?

Within the large and growing healthcare industry, dental assistants play a key role in keeping a dental office running smoothly. They perform general patient care and handle routine administrative responsibilities that frequently include the following:

- Assist the dentist during dental procedures
- Sterilize instruments
- Take dental impressions
- Manage office records, including billing and paperwork
- Greet and care for patients
- Schedule and confirm patient appointments
- Manage dental records
- Instruct patients on proper oral care

Where do they work?

Dental assistants work with dentists and dental hygienists to provide care to patients. Most dental assistants work full-time, standard schedules, but part-time work is also available.



How much do dental assistants earn?

On average, dental assistants can make around \$47,300 per year.*

Is the dental assistant field growing?

As practices expand, dental assistants will take on more routine duties, so dentists and orthodontists can see more patients. Employment for dental assistants is expected to grow by 8% over the next decade.*

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. "Dental Assistants" Occupational Outlook Handbook. Accessed April 22, 2025.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Prepare For A Better Job

Train affordably without sacrificing quality. This program's comprehensive training was developed by industry professionals with years of experience. The program is specially designed to help you prepare to:

- Gain hands-on clinical experience in patient care and dental office procedures

Learn Your Way (From Home)

Online training minimizes the challenges of taking time out to return to school. The online training format offers distinct advantages:

- Study on a schedule that fits your life
- Progress at a pace that matches your learning style
- Enjoy the flexibility to adjust the time and effort you devote to your coursework each day

Achieve Success With Live Learner And Career Support

In addition to comprehensive training and online flexibility, you'll be assigned an advisor who will be there for you every step of the way.

You'll also have one-on-one access to our 3 support teams—learner support, technical support, and career support—to ensure that you can complete your program and prepare for a better future! All of these student success teams are committed to helping you:

- Complete your training quickly
- Prepare for the DANB NELDA and AMT RDA certification exams
- Successfully move into the workforce

Get Certified

CareerStep's Dental Assistant Program prepares you to sit for the National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) component exams from the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), and sets you on the pathway for your Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification. Earning your CDA certificate from DANB is a milestone achievement that distinguishes your resume and showcases your professional experience. Your Dental Assistant Program will also help you prepare for the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) exam from American Medical Technologists (AMT)

Program Outline

Courses

Program Orientation: Dental Assistant Entry Level

Introduction to Dental Assisting

Dental Infection Control

Basic Dental Sciences

Oral Health and Nutrition

Tooth Morphology and Dental Charting

Dental Pharmacology and Med Emergencies

Dental Radiology

Preparation for Dental Patient Care

Fundamentals of HIPAA

Dental Office Management and Employment

Externship Readiness Skills

Dental Office and Basic Chairside Assisting

Dental Restorative and Laboratory Materials

Clinical Dental Procedures

Dental Specialties

Career Success in Healthcare

Dental Assistant Entry Level Final Exam

Applying for Your Required Externship

Clinical Externship*

Program Completion: Dental Assistant Entry Level

*CareerStep does not guarantee externships.

A learner's placement in and completion of an externship is solely the learner's responsibility and may be subject to additional requirements, such as a background check and successful completion of a CareerStep course. This is particularly important for learners seeking to complete their externship in Alabama, District of Columbia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Please note that CareerStep will not sign agreements with sites in the above-referenced states or provide evidence of insurance to those sites.