

DENTAL ASSISTING

Division: Health Science

Division Dean

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Program Description

The Dental Assisting Program is a two-semester program that includes patient care experiences in a fully equipped on-site facility, with students assigned to clinics or dental offices for their clinical externship experiences. Course content provides the academic knowledge necessary for the competent practice of dental assisting and registered dental assisting.

The Cypress College Dental Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of Approval without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. The Cypress College Dental Assisting Program is also accredited by the Dental Board of California, the Accrediting body for the dental professionals (Auxiliaries) in California through the Department of Consumer Affairs.

At the completion of the program the student will have satisfied the requirements set forth by the Dental Board of California to be eligible for the California Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) examination and the National Certification Examination for Dental Assistants. These requirements include satisfactory completion of course work in Radiation Safety, Coronal Polish, Dental Sealants, Infection Control, the Dental Practice Act, CPR, and all the duties for the Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant. Upon satisfactory completion of the Registered Dental Assistant examination, the student will be licensed to perform all functions set forth in the Dental Practice Act by the Dental Board of California.

Program Goals

The goal of the Dental Assisting Program is to provide the student with the educational opportunity to attain the academic knowledge and competence necessary to qualify for both the National Certification Examination and the California State Registered Dental Assistant Examination, and to prepare the student for dental assisting entry-level employment as an integral member of the dental health team.

Program Objectives

1. To provide a dental assisting program to meet challenges presented by demographic changes of the current decade.
2. To promote a dental assisting curriculum that helps build student's educational and career goals in a success-oriented learning environment.
3. To provide students with the academic resources and clinical experiences to perform the functions approved by the California Dental Practice Act for a Dental Assistant and a Registered Dental Assistant with competence and judgment.
4. To provide students with academic knowledge and clinical skills in the Dental Practice Act, infection control and CPR.
5. To prepare the student to qualify for certification in Radiology Safety, Coronal Polishing and Dental Sealants.
6. To maintain a positive communication network between the advisory committee, dental community, and dental assisting program alumni.
7. To create a safe learning environment in compliance with federal and California state standards and regulations.

Minimum Standards

1. Eligibility for admission to Cypress College.
2. High School graduation, or passing of the General Education Development (GED) or high school proficiency test, or an Associate's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college/university. Spring high school graduates may apply and if accepted to the program must submit proof of graduation before enrolling in the Fall courses.
3. Evidence of good physical and mental health as determined by medical examination upon admission to the program and prior to enrollment.

Application Procedures

1. Applications must be completed **online** starting the month of **February**. Applications will be accepted until the program is full or the fall semester begins. Please see the **Health Science Application link** on the Health Science home page <http://www.cypresscollege.edu/academics/divisions-special-programs/health-science>.
2. Enrollment is limited to the first 24 qualified applicants.

Selection Procedures

Qualified applicants will be accepted into the program first come first serve based on the date of a completed Dental Assisting application and supporting documents.

- Dental Assisting Associate in Science Degree
- Dental Assisting Certificate

At Cypress College, there are Department Program Student Learning Outcomes and Degree & Certificate Program Student Learning Outcomes.

Department Program Student Learning

Outcomes:

The courses taught by this department contribute to the following ISLO/PSLOs: A-Breadth of Knowledge, Competencies, and Skills, B-Communication Skills, C-Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Information Competency Skills, and D-Personal, Academic, and Professional Development; specifically, the following ISLO/PSLO subcategories: A1-Health Sciences, B1-Reading, B2-Writing, B3-Communicating, B4-Presenting, C1-Analysis, C2-Computation, C3-Research, C4-Problem Solving, C5-Technology, D1-Personal Responsibility, D2-Global Citizenship, and D3-Equity.

Students who complete the Dental Assisting program will be able to:

- Demonstrate the academic knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to qualify for both the National Certification Exam and the California State Registered Dental Assistant Exam.
- Demonstrate the knowledge necessary for the ethical, legal and competent practice of dental assisting.
- Perform the functions approved by the California Dental Practice Act for a Dental Assistant and a Registered Dental Assistant, including infection control, with competence and judgment.
- Demonstrate clinical competency in dental radiology, coronal polish and dental sealants.
- Prepared for employment as a dental assistant and as an integral member of the dental team.

Degree & Certificate Program Student Learning

Outcomes:

The program student learning outcomes for each award can be found on the specific degree or certificate page.