Dental Assistant

16-credit Technical Diploma

About the Program

Dental assistants perform a variety of patient care, office and laboratory responsibilities. They provide chair-side assistance as dentists examine and treat patients. They make patients as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, prepare them for treatment and obtain their dental records. In this statewide set program, students will also use and care for dental equipment, expose and process radiographs, assist with dental emergencies, record medical and dental information, maintain a supply inventory and perform related dental office and laboratory procedures under the direction and supervision of a dentist.

Potential Job Titles

- Dental Assistant
- Orthodontic Assistant

Credit Transfer

Some credits earned in the Dental Assistant program may be transferable to a Dental Hygiene Associate Degree program in Wisconsin. More information is available from a WCTC Program Counselor or the Admissions Office. Visit **www.wctc.edu/transfer** for specific information. Since the details of credit transfers change from time to time, be sure to contact the intended college or university to verify credit transferability.

Admission Process

- Fill out a WCTC application
- Send $30 non-refundable application fee
- Send high school transcript or GED/HSED
- Send any previous college transcripts
- Complete Skills Assessment test (COMPASS)
- Begin pursuing Financial Aid options
- View online informational meeting and schedule a Program Planning Session (PPS) with program counselor
- Requires a physical and dental examination prior to clinical experience and up-to-date immunizations
- Current Health Care Provider CPR is required before entering any of the Dental courses

For more information, call 262.691.5200.

Required Courses		Credits
First Semester		
508-101	Dental Health Safety	1
508-113	Dental Materials	2
508-302	Dental Chairside	5
508-304	Dental and General Anatomy	2
508-305	Applied Dental Radiography	2
508-306	Dental Assistant Clinical	3
508-307	Dental Assist Professionalism	1
Total semester credits		**16**

A grade point of 2.0 (C) or better is required in all courses to complete the program.

Curriculum is current as of catalog printing. The most current curriculum requirements for graduation will be provided upon admission to program, or review at www.wctc.edu.

Dental Assistant Required Courses

508-101 Dental Health Safety 1
Prepare to respond proactively to dental emergencies, control infection, prevent disease, adhere to OSHA standards and safely manage hazardous materials. Take patient vital signs and collect patient medical/dental histories. WTCS aligned course required in both the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assisting programs.

508-113 Dental Materials 2
Practice handling and preparing liners, bases, cements, amalgam, resin restorative materials, gypsum products, and impression materials. Learn to take alginate impressions on manikins and clean removable appliances.
Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory; and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology

508-302 Dental Chairside 5
Prepare to chart oral cavity structures, dental pathology, and restorations and assist a dentist with basic dental procedures including examinations, pain control, amalgam restoration, and cosmetic restoration. Develop the ability to educate patients about preventive dentistry, brushing and flossing techniques, and dental procedures, using lay terminology. Apply decoding strategies to the correct use and interpretation of dental terminology.
Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory; and 508-113 Dental Materials (or concurrent); and 508-306 Dental Assistant Clinical (or concurrent); and 508-307 Dental Assistant Professional (or concurrent); and 508-305 Applied Dental Radiography (or concurrent); and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory

508-304 Dental & General Anatomy 2
Apply fundamentals of general and dental anatomy to informed decision-making and to professional communication with colleagues and patients.

508-305 Applied Dental Radiography 2
Be prepared to operate x-ray units and expose bitewing, periiapical, extra oral, and occlusal radiographs. Emphasis on protection against x-ray hazards. Process, mount, and evaluate radiographs for diagnostic value. Demonstrate competency on a manikin in addition to exposing bitewing radiographs on a peer, role-play patient.
Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory; and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory

508-306 Dental Assistant Clinical 3
Apply skills in a clinical setting with patients. Integration of core abilities and basic occupational skills are emphasized.
Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory and 508-302 Dental Chairside (or concurrent) and 508-113 Dental Materials (or concurrent) and 508-305 Applied Dental Radiography (or concurrent) and 508-307 Dental Assistant Professional (or concurrent) and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory

508-307 Dental Assistant Professional 1
Develop professional appearance and image and learn to work within ethical guidelines and legal frameworks. Develop and customize a portfolio and on-going professional development plan to prepare for the workforce.
Prerequisites: 508-306 Dental Assistant Clinical (or concurrent) and 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) and 508-113 Dental Materials (or concurrent) and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) and 508-305 Applied Dental Radiography (or concurrent) and 508-302 Dental Chairside (or concurrent)