

DENTAL ASSISTING (DENTL)

The Dental Assisting Program at College of Alameda is a national and state accredited program.

Dental Assisting is the study of the dental healthcare industry. Coursework addresses the various issues surrounding patient dental care and oral health. This program includes California Dental law, ethics, professionalism, infection control, head and neck anatomy, dental radiology, dental materials, chair-side skills, coronal polish, and pit and fissure sealants.

The fall semester courses introduce basic theory and chairside skills, leading to more advanced studies courses during the spring semester, which also include internships and advanced use of technology within dentistry. A **Certificate of Achievement** is awarded upon successful completion of the program. The Dental Assisting Program prepares you for the California Registered Dental Assistant and National Certified Dental Assistant exams.

The program seeks individuals who enjoy interaction with people, teamwork, have good communications skills, enjoy variety in their work and enjoy excellent working opportunities and conditions. Dental Assisting is a rewarding and stable career.

Program Learning outcomes

1. Apply critical thinking to all aspects of the dental field.
2. Communicate in written and verbal form according to terminology of the dental field.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural sensitivity within the field of dental assisting.
4. Demonstrate self discipline to pursue intellectual curiosities with integrity in both personal and professional lives.

This full-time curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Education for Dental Assistants. The program includes lecture and laboratory practice in the classroom. Clinical experience is required in the dental clinics of the University of California and the University of Pacific Dental Schools in San Francisco, as well as in private dental offices. Students completing all required courses with a minimum grade of 75% = C or better grade will earn a Certificate of Achievement and be qualified to take the Certification Examination of the DANB, the State of California RDA examinations, and will be prepared to assume the responsibilities of assisting the dentist in all phases of general practice. The program requires 28.5 semester units in Dental Assisting, plus 9 semester units in other general education required courses.



Admission is by special application directly to the Dental Assisting Department. Candidates must possess a high school diploma or the equivalent. All eligibility requirements, including having official transcripts on file, must be completed prior to applying to the program. The application deadline is April 15 of each year for admission into the program starting the following fall semester. Applicants will be notified by mail of acceptance into the Dental Assisting program. Applications received after April 15 will be accepted only on a space-available basis.

The **AS degree in Dental Assisting** will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the major course requirements listed below and the General Education requirements for the Associate in Science Degree listed in the Degrees and Programs section of this Catalog.

Eligibility/Admission/Prerequisite and Degree/Certificate Requirements:

- Possession of a high school diploma or the equivalent prior to application to and admission into the program.
- Official transcripts must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office prior to program application.
- It is **highly recommended** that the following be completed prior to admission into the program and enrollment in Fall term courses:
 - DENTL 251, Dental Terminology
- Completion of HLTED 9, Standard First Aid and Safety (2 units); **and** HLTED 11, CPR (.5 units); **OR** possession of current cards as evidence of completion are required prior to enrollment in DENTL 223.
- Physical and dental examinations, and negative TB and hepatitis test results are required to be submitted to the Dental Assisting Department prior to enrollment in DENTL 223.
- Completion of all Dental Assisting courses with a grade of 2.0 ("C") or better is required to be eligible for the AS degree and Certificate of Completion in Dental Assisting.

* CPR & First Aid must be taken with a local Red Cross or American Heart Association.

Degree Major/Certificate Requirements:

Dept/No.	Title	Units
FALL SEMESTER		
DENTL 220A	Infection Control and Oral Health	2
DENTL 220B	Infection Control and Coronal Polish	1
DENTL 221	Professional Standards	.5
DENTL 222	Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems	3.5
DENTL 223	Chairside Procedures	3
DENTL 224A	Dental Radiology I	3
DENTL 225	Dental Materials and Lab Procedures	<u>3</u>
	Semester Total	16
SPRING SEMESTER		
DENTL 224B	Dental Radiology II	2
DENTL 226	Advanced Chairside Procedures	3
DENTL 227	Biodental Sciences	2
DENTL 228A	Clinical Rotations and Review	2
DENTL 228B	Clinical Rotations and Internship	5
DENTL 229	Practice Management	1.5
DENTL 230	Pit and Fissure Sealants	<u>.5</u>
	Semester Total	16
Complete the following 9 units at any time:		
ENGL 201B*	Preparation for Composition and Reading	3
PSYCH 1A	Introduction to General Psychology	3
COMM 1A	Introduction to Speech (3) or	
COMM 20	Interpersonal Communication (3) or	
COMM 45	Public Speaking (3)	<u>3</u>
	Subtotal	9
	Total Required Units:	41

*A higher level English course, such as Engl 1A, may be substituted for Engl 201B.

DENTL 220A**Infection Control and Oral Health**

2 units, 1.5 hours lecture, 2 hours laboratory (GR) (12 weeks)

Corequisite: Dentl 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45
Introduction to infection control and oral health: Emphasis on infection control and disinfection techniques for patient and occupational protection; disease transmission, microbiology, and application of Cal-DOSH (OSHA) blood-borne pathogens standards, Dental Board Infection Control guidelines, and CDC recommendations for healthcare settings; relationship and value of nutrition in promoting good oral health. 1240.10

DENTL 220B**Infection Control and Coronal Polish**

1 unit, .5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours laboratory (GR) (5 weeks)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A

Corequisite: Dentl 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45
Introduction to infection control and coronal polish: Emphasis on coronal polish, infection control, sterilization and disinfection techniques, and legal considerations for patient and occupational protection; application of Cal-DOSH (OSHA) blood-borne pathogens standards, Dental Board Infection Control guidelines, and CDC recommendations for healthcare settings; principles of tooth polishing and plaque and stain formation, indications and contra-indications of coronal polishing, polishing agent composition and storage and handling; characteristics, manipulation, and care of dental hand pieces; nutritional information for good oral health and preventative care. 1240.10



DENTL 221**Professional Standards**

.5 units, 10 term hours lecture (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220

Corequisite: Dentl 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 45

Introduction and hands-on orientation to the dental assisting profession and the career of dentistry: Study of nutrition, health, professionalism, history of dentistry and allied organizations; emphasis on licensure and certification, the duties of chairside assistants, the legal ramifications of dentistry, ethics and jurisprudence. 1240.10

DENTL 222**Oral Anatomy, Morphology and Body Systems**

3.5 units, 3 hours lecture, 1.5 hours laboratory (GR)

Corequisite: Dentl 220 and 221 and 223 and 224A and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 45

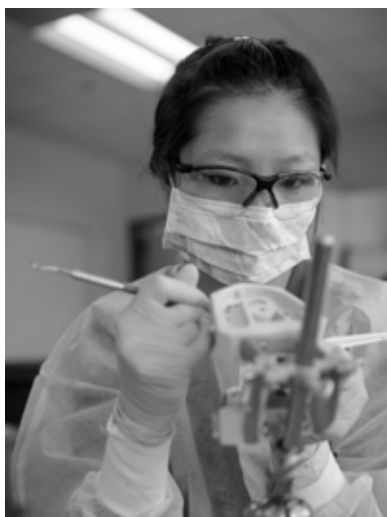
Introduction to general anatomy, body systems, and head and neck anatomy: Emphasis on the teeth and their supporting structures. 1240.10

DENTL 223**Chairside Procedures**

3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)

Prerequisite: Hlted 9 and 11, or current First Aid and CPR cards; and health clearances: physical and dental examinations, and negative TB and hepatitis test results
Corequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 224A and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45
Principles of chairside assisting: Operative procedures including chairside responsibilities, instrument identification, four-handed techniques, sequences of dental procedures and dental anesthesia; maintenance of dental equipment and operatory systems. 1240.10

**DENTL 224A****Dental Radiology I**

3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)

Corequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 225

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45
Basic principles of radiation and radiation safety and protection: Elementary anatomic landmarks for exposing dental radiographs on X-ray mannequins using bisecting and parallel techniques; radiological terminology and vocabulary including basic digital radiography; radiologic infection control; and proficiency, through examination, in radiation safety and protection techniques as required by ADA accrediting standards. 1240.10

DENTL 224B**Dental Radiology II**

2 units, 1 hour lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Corequisite: Dentl 226 and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45
Advanced principles of radiation and radiation safety and protection: Intermediate and advanced principles of radiology including film placement, angulations and exposures; anatomical identification and interpretation of radiologic images; specialty radiographic procedures such as digital radiographs, occlusal films, and pedo FMX; experience in exposing film on human subjects and advanced darkroom/processing procedures; and community service project serving underserved population within the local area. 1240.10

DENTL 225**Dental Materials and Lab Procedures**

3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)

Corequisite: Dentl 220 and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A
Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 45

Study and safe manipulation of dental materials used in operative and restorative dental procedures: Use of instruments and lab equipment, safety and health hazards, and patient safety. 1240.10

DENTL 226**Advanced Chairside Procedures**

3 units, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Corequisite: Dentl 224B and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45

Advanced study of dental specialties: Endodontics, pediatrics, oral surgery, orthodontics, and periodontics to reflect Dental Board of California educational requirements and preparation for the California Registered Dental Assistant examination. 1240.10

DENTL 227**Biodental Sciences**

2 units, 2 hours lecture (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 222

Corequisite: Dentl 228

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 45

Introduction to biodental sciences: Emphasis on oral pathology relating to occupational hazards; identification of oral lesions and dental pharmacology; preparation for office emergencies, both medical and dental; legal responsibility of assistants; and patient health and safety. 1240.10

DENTL 228A**Clinical Rotations and Review**

2 units, 2 hours lecture (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Corequisite: Dentl 224B and 226 and 227 and 228B and 229

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 20 or 45

Advanced study of specialty areas in dentistry: Restorative and preventative materials, amalgam, composites, sealants, prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, and pediatrics. 1240.10

DENTL 228B**Clinical Rotations and Review**

5 units, 16 hours laboratory (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Corequisite: Dentl 224B and 226 and 227 and 228A and 229

Application of practical chairside skills in clinical rotations at private dental offices and local dental schools: Manipulation of dental materials, front office skills, and care of the dental patient during dental procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 229**Practice Management**

1.5 units, 1.5 hours lecture, 2 hours laboratory (GR)

Corequisite: Dentl 228

Recommended preparation: Bus 230D-F, and CIS 205, and Dentl 251 and 252, and Engl 201B or higher, and Psych 1A, and Comm 1A or 45

Practice of dental office management duties and responsibilities: Receptionist and office management duties including patient relationships, telephone techniques, inventory control, chart management, dental records, correspondence, filing, appointment and recall systems; computer program skills to include dental software relating to accounts payable/receivable, insurance forms, and banking procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 230**Pit and Fissure Sealants**

0.5 units, 0.34 hour lecture, 0.51 hour laboratory (GR)

Prerequisite: Dentl 220A and 220B and 221 and 222 and 223 and 224A and 225

Corequisite: Dentl 224B and 226 and 227 and 228A and 228B and 229

Recommended preparation: Dentl 251 and 252

Legal requirements and scope of practice as related to Pit and Fissure Sealants: Morphology of the teeth; I identify indication and contraindications of Pit and Fissure Sealants; importance of documentation; infection control, equipment and armamentarium needed as well as instrument grasp, fulcrum techniques and application of materials. 1240.10

DENTL 248AA-FZ**Selected Topics in Dental Assisting**

.5-9 units, 0-9 hours lecture, 0-27 hours laboratory (GR or P/NP)

See section on Selected Topics. 1240.10

DENTL 251**Dental Terminology**

1 unit, 1 hour lecture (GR)

Introduction to dental terminology: Terminology related to body structure, pathological conditions and diseases; operative terms and techniques including laboratory diagnostic procedures. 1240.10

DENTL 252**Overview of the Dental Assisting Program**

1 unit, 1 hour lecture (GR)

Introductory study and basic overview of the dental assisting profession: Professionalism, restorative materials, infection control procedures, and dental techniques including laboratory procedures. 1240.10