



DENTAL ASSISTING | COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL ASSISTING

The dental assistant is a significant member of the dental healthcare team. Assistants greatly increase the efficiency of the dentist in the delivery of quality oral healthcare. Dental assistants must possess strong communication skills and enjoy working with their hands.

A career as a dental assistant offers many challenges. In addition to assisting the dentist during a variety of procedures, dental assistants often provide instructions for oral care following treatment; perform office management tasks; expose and process dental radiographs (x-rays); sterilize instruments and equipment; and take impressions of patients' teeth.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The dental assisting program is a one-year, 37-credit-hour program, commencing in August and completing the following June. All students must receive a grade of C or better in each of the courses to be eligible for graduation.

Candidates for admission to the program must be high school graduates with a 2.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 grading scale) or an HSED (High School Equivalency Diploma). High school courses in biology and chemistry are strongly recommended. Each candidate must submit the required materials to the Dental Education Department prior to July 1 for consideration of entry into the class beginning in the fall semester of that year. Applications submitted beyond the July 1 deadline will be considered depending on class availability.

Interested students must **first** apply to IU Northwest before applying to the dental assisting program. Students are notified of acceptance in the program by July 15. Accepted students must attend an orientation the week before classes begin. Class size is limited for the dental assisting program.

COURSEWORK

Select dental assisting courses:

- Oral Anatomy
- Dental Therapeutics and Medical Emergencies
- Microbiology and Asepsis Technique
- Clinical Science I & II
- Dental Materials I & II
- Oral Pathology, Physiology & Anatomy I & II
- Preventive Dentistry
- Introduction to Dentistry
- Behavioral Science
- Dental Radiology (Laboratory and Clinic)
- Oral Histology and Embryology
- Written and Oral Communications
- Practice Management, Ethics, and Jurisprudence

Students should schedule an appointment with an advisor in the Dental Education Department.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The dental assisting program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (a specialized accreditation body recognized by the Council of Post-Secondary Education and by the U.S. Department of Education).

The department has four full-time faculty appointments and many adjunct faculty members who bring years of experience to the classroom from their time spent in private dental offices, as well as in educational institutions.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL ASSISTING?

A graduate of the program is eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Examination for credentialing. Upon successful completion of the examination, the graduate earns the title of Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) and is eligible for licensure to expose x-rays in the state of Indiana.

Employment opportunities are available in private dental offices and clinics; hospitals; local, state, and federal public health facilities; educational institutions; and dental companies.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

The student's education is enhanced by experiences in externship rotations in private dental offices and clinics; local, state and federal public health facilities throughout Northwest Indiana; and also in the IU Northwest on-site Dental Education Clinic. This provides opportunities for our students to gain experience with dental healthcare teams within and outside of the university. The campus offers a fully equipped dental clinic with sixteen dental units, six radiology rooms, and a spacious dental laboratory.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The students are members of the American Dental Assistants Association and are required to attend association meetings.

RELATED DEGREE OPTIONS

- B.S. in dental hygiene
- Bachelor of general studies
- B.S. applied health science

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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