

# DENTAL ASSISTING

A field in high demand! The Dental Assisting Program is designed to provide the dental assisting student with the basic knowledge and ability to offer direct chair side assistance to the dentist, perform dental radiographic procedures, perform principles of preventive dentistry and instruct patients in related techniques. Students will also learn general office procedures, skills necessary to maintain instruments, equipment, principles of microbiology, disease prevention, infection control procedures and Hazard Communication Management.

The Dental Assisting program is accredited by the American Dental Association and approved by the Florida Board of Dentistry. After successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Certification Examination.

Clinical experiences are obtained during clinical externship in a variety of dental offices.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

After successfully completing the program, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the health care delivery system.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate and use interpersonal skills effectively.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and apply wellness and disease concepts.
- Recognize and practice safety and security procedures.
- Recognize and respond to emergency situations.
- Demonstrate employability skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of blood borne diseases, including AIDS.
- Apply basic mathematics, science skills, and computer skills.
- Perform chair side assisting for specialty procedures.
- Record patient assessment data.
- Perform general office procedures.
- Identify structures and explain functions and pathologies of dental and general anatomy.
- Identify, describe, maintain and utilize dental instruments and equipment.
- Identify and perform dental radiographic procedures.
- Identify properties and uses and manipulate dental materials.
- Describe principles and perform techniques of preventive dentistry.
- Describe the legal and ethical responsibilities of the dental health care worker.



## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma or GED. 18 years old. Students must take the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) prior to entering the program. For acceptance into the program, the student must submit a completed physical examination form and copy of current CPR, American Heart Association or American Red Cross BLS for Healthcare Providers certification, and interview with the Dental Instructor.

## COMPLETION TIME

The evening program length is approximately 14 months (1230 hours).

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This program offers students an opportunity to earn while they learn. Students are employed in a dental office during their clinical externship. Upon program completion, the students are prepared to take the National Certification Exam for Dental Assistants and have advanced placement standing for the dental hygiene program. Career opportunities for the dental assisting graduate include employment in dental health facilities, private dental practices, or dental specialty practices.

## CERTIFICATES

Upon successful completion of the program and all state requirements, the graduate will receive a Certificate of Completion, Expanded Functions Certificate and a Florida Radiology Certificate which will qualify the graduate to assist the dentist chair side and practice all delegated remediable tasks by the authority of Florida Statute 21G-16.005, Board of Dentistry, Department of Professional Regulation.

Salary Range: \$16.00/hr. to \$22.00/hr.

Linda Flood, Instructor  
[floodli@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:floodli@collier.k12.fl.us)