Dental Assisting, Diploma

School of Health Professions

Program Description

The Dental Assisting Diploma program offers the academic preparation and clinical training necessary to secure employment as a dental assistant. Dental assistants are employed by dentists in general and specialty practices as well as hospital dental clinics. The program includes clinical experience in all phases of dentistry while rotating through departments at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and private dental offices.

Upon successful completion of DAS 105, students are eligible to apply to take the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) Exam. Upon successful completion of the Dental Assisting Program, national DANB certification may be earned as a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) upon successful completion of the DANB Infection Control (ICE) Exam and General Chairside (GC) Exam.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The commission is a special accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

This is a selective admission program. See the college website for details.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Perform clinical dental assisting procedures with competence.
- Manage asepsis, infection and hazard control protocol consistent with published professional guidelines.
- Perform procedures specific to the work of the dental assistant, e.g., taking preliminary impressions, charting and data collection.
- Obtain and record accurate medical/dental histories and vital signs.
- Assist in the management of medical and dental emergencies.
- Provide oral health instruction and communicate effectively with patients and dental health team members.
- Expose, process and evaluate all types of oral radiography.
- Perform laboratory procedures associated with chairside assisting.
- Operate all dental equipment safely, effectively and efficiently.
- Perform basic office business procedures accurately.
- Successfully complete the dental assisting national board exam and applicable state credentialing.
- Assume responsibility for their own actions within the legal and ethical framework of dental assisting.
- Develop an attitude of responsibility for continued professional development, through encouragement to participate in professional organizations and continuing education opportunities.

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Prereq/Coreq(Co)	Options Available
Fall	1	PDV 101	First Year Seminar	1		
	2	DAS 100	Intro to Dental Assisting	4	Co: DAS 101, DAS 102, DAS 103, DAS 105, BIO 107	
	3	DAS 101	Oral Anatomy	2	Co: DAS 100, DAS 102, DAS 103, DAS 105, BIO 107	
	4	DAS 102	Dental Material for Dental Assisting	2	Co: DAS 100, DAS 101, DAS 103, DAS 105, BIO 107	
	5	DAS 103	Dental Assisting Lab	4	Co: DAS 100, DAS 101, DAS 102, DAS 105, BIO 107	
	6	DAS 105	Dental Rad for Dental Assisting	3	Co: DAS 100, DAS 101, DAS 102, DAS 103, BIO 107	
	7	BIO 107	Human Biology	3	Varies	BIO 171 or BIO 172
Spring	8	DAS 104	Dental Science	4	DAS 100, DAS 101, DAS 102, DAS 103, DAS 105, BIO 107 or BIO 171 or BIO 172; Co: DAS 106, ENG 161, PSY 160	
	9	DAS 106	CLN Dental Assisting I	5	DAS 100, DAS 101, DAS 102, DAS 103, DAS 105, BIO 107 or BIO 171 or BIO 172; Co: DAS 104, ENG 161, PSY 160	
	10	ENG 161	College Writing	3	ENG 085 with Permission of Instructor, ENG 095 or Placement	
	11	PSY 160	General Psychology	3		
Summer	12	DAS 108	Clinical Dental Assisting II	4	DAS 104, DAS 106, ENG 161, PSY 160; Co: DAS 109, SPC 156	
	13	DAS 109	Practice Management	2	DAS 104, DAS 106, ENG 161, PSY 160; Co: DAS 108, SPC 156	
	14	SPC 156	Interpersonal Communication	3		

Minimum Program Credits 43 DEAS