State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Dental Assisting

Dental Assisting combines administrative support with providing assistance to dentists and hygienists during dental procedures.

What Students Learn & Do

Dental Assisting Programs prepare students for entry-level careers working in a dental office or lab. Working in classrooms and supervised clinical settings, students are introduced to a range of dental procedures and specialities, learning the basics of dental science, nutrition and prevention, and head and neck anatomy.

The responsibilities of a Dental Assistant are diverse and challenging - requiring both technical and interpersonal skills. Beginning in the school setting and progressing to supervised experiences in a professional setting, students learn techniques related to infection control, instrument identification and transfer, taking patient X-Rays, and communicating with patients. Training also covers administrative tasks such as inventory control, appointment scheduling, office management and patient charts. Safety, communication skills and professionalism are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Dental Assisting students are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. In addition, academic skills are reinforced through integration of chemistry, anatomy/physiology and biology into the curriculum.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples

- OSHA Health - 10 hour
- Radiology Health and Safety
- CPR/First Aid for Health Professionals
- Infection Control

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training needed for entry-level employment in this in-demand career field. Here are some possible career opportunities for Dental Assisting program graduates.

High School Diploma	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)	Advanced Degree
• Clinical Dental Assistant • Laboratory Assistant	• Dental Hygienist • Dental Lab Technician	• Dental Assisting Teacher • Pre-Dental • Pre-Medicine	• Dentist • Orthodontist • Doctor

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Learn about the differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html