

Dental Assisting Diploma

Diploma (D290)

Program Description

The 11-month Dental Assisting Diploma Program at CLC was the first program established in the state, back in 1967! This hands-on, fast-paced program is designed to educate students in chairside skills and expanded functions delegated by the Minnesota State Board of Dentistry. Students will learn ways to treat and prevent dental disease, as well as teach patients preventive dental care. Fall and spring semesters are on-campus, followed by a nine-week summer session where 2 internships are completed in dental practices of your choice. This education prepares students to take national and state written licensing examinations, which are required for certification and licensure as dental assistants in the state of Minnesota.

Program Outcomes

By completing this program, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Perform chair side procedures in a clinical setting;
- Apply infection control, biohazards and treatment area practices;
- Perform dental office procedures;
- Perform radiographic and radiation safety procedures;
- Communicate professionally with patients, peers, and members of the dental health team; and
- Model professionalism through continuing education and membership in the American Dental Assistants Association.

Program Accreditation

The CLC Dental Assisting program has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) since 1967. The most recent reauthorization visit was conducted in Fall of 2019.

Program Course Requirements

DENT 1106	Dental Orientation and Anatomy	3 cr
DENT 1114	Pathology, Pharmacology, and Law.....	3 cr
DENT 1116*	Dental Clinic I.....	8 cr
DENT 1118	Dental Radiology I	3 cr
DENT 1120	Preventive Dentistry.....	2 cr
DENT 1123*	Dental Clinic II.....	9 cr
DENT 1124	Biomaterials.....	3 cr
DENT 1129*	Dental Radiology II	2 cr
DENT 1132*	Dental Specialties	2 cr
DENT 1133*	Principles of Practice Management and Communication	2 cr
DENT 1150*	Dental Internship (336 Hours).....	7 cr
EMTS 1130	AHA Healthcare Provider CPR	1 cr

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 45 CREDITS

**Denotes Prerequisites*

Semester Course Requirements

Fall Semester (20 credits)

DENT 1106	Dental Orientation and Anatomy	3 cr
DENT 1116*	Dental Clinic I	8 cr
DENT 1118	Dental Radiology I	3 cr
DENT 1120	Preventive Dentistry	2 cr
DENT 1124	Biomaterials	3 cr
EMTS 1130	AHA Healthcare Provider CPR	1 cr

Spring Semester (18 credits)

DENT 1114	Pathology, Pharmacology, and Law	3 cr
DENT 1123*	Dental Clinic II	9 cr
DENT 1129*	Dental Radiology II	2 cr
DENT 1132*	Dental Specialties	2 cr
DENT 1133*	Principles of Practice Management and Communication	2 cr

Summer Session (7 credits)

DENT 1150*	Dental Internship (336 Hours)	7 cr
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Career Opportunities

The career of dental assisting is an exciting, challenging, rewarding, and very in-demand career, where no two days will be alike as you help make dental experiences enjoyable for your patients! Dental assistants are critical members of the dental team, responsible for assisting the dentist, dental therapist, or hygienist with many chairside duties, performing many duties independently according to the State Dental Practice Act, in addition to working in the business end of dentistry. This career is also a great building block if you want to further your education as a Restorative Functions Dental Assistant, dental hygienist, office manager, dental therapist, dental sales representative, dental educator, or dentist.

Course Prerequisites

Some courses may require appropriate test scores or completion of basic math, basic English and/or reading courses with a "C" or better. CLC utilizes a multiple measure approach for placement which may include high school MCA, SAT, ACT scores in addition to high school GPAs. For insurance purposes, internships may require that students be 18 years old.

Program Admissions Requirements

- To be accepted into the Dental Assisting Program, students must meet Writing Introductory College Level and Reading College Level CLC placement levels.
- The curriculum in the dental assisting program may expose students to hazardous materials, radiation and/or infectious diseases. Students will be provided with information through education and program policies to protect themselves and their patients from harm. Students will be expected to utilize appropriate safety precautions in the classroom, laboratory and clinic. Program policies are available upon request.
- All applications to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry for initial license will require a criminal background check.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must meet the following conditions in order to graduate:

1. College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
2. College Technical Core GPA Requirement: cumulative GPA of credits attempted and completed towards the technical core of the diploma or degree must be at least 2.0;
3. Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College.
4. 8 hours of dental clinical observation must be completed by October 1st.
5. Students who apply for the Dental Assisting Program who meet requirements for Admission will be accepted into the Dental Assisting Diploma for their first year with the option of pursuing their Associates in Applied Science (AAS) their second year.