

Dental Assisting, A.A.S. with Certificate Option

Program Location: Bay Minette Campus

Nursing and Allied Health Division

Length: Five Semesters (A.A.S. Degree); Three Semesters (Certificate)

This program prepares individuals to assist with the care of dental patients under direct supervision of a dentist. Dental assistants help with the provision of patient care, business office administration and laboratory procedures. Dental assistants hold a vital role in the dental healthcare team. Responsibilities include recording patient's dental and health history, taking and recording vital signs, patient reassurance, treatment and instrument preparation, mixing and transferring dental materials, processing and sterilizing instruments, maintaining infection control, maintaining inventory control, exposing and processing radiographs, dental equipment maintenance, and providing patients pre-op, post-op, and oral hygiene instructions. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and currently holds the status of "approval without reporting requirements." Students are required to take the Dental Assisting National Board Infection Control Exam, the Radiation Health and Safety Exam, and General Chairside Exam.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to comply with the guidelines established in both the Allied Health and Dental Assisting Program policy manuals. These policies are listed on the Dental Assisting web page.

PROGRAM COSTS:

Refer to the Dental Assisting Program on Coastal Alabama's website at www.CoastalAlabama.edu for a complete list of costs.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of Coastal Alabama.
2. Eligibility for ENG 101 and MTH 116/098 according to ACT or placement exam scores, if courses have not already been completed.
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 for the last 24 credit hrs of college coursework, or minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 high school without college coursework. The GED equivalent is 2.5.
4. Submit official transcripts from all colleges attended and high school, or GED to admissions before July 1.
5. Submit Dental Assisting Program application with unofficial transcripts to program director by July 1 @ 5:00 pm CST.
6. Upon acceptance and no later than the scheduled Dental Assisting Program orientation, the completed Dental Assisting form and Immunization form must be submitted. No blue cards accepted. Also, a copy of a current healthcare provider CPR card and consent to random drug testing and background check must be provided at mandatory Dental Assisting Program orientation. (TBA, usually the 3rd week of July).
7. Submit required form for observation of a dental assistant completing duties at a dental office.

SELECTION:

There are 24 available spaces. If over 24 qualified applications are received, in addition to the above, points will be awarded for ENG 101, MTH 116 (or higher level Math), PSY 200, and SPH 106 or 107. In the event of a tie, additional points will be awarded for a Fine Arts Elective, CIS 146, BIO 103, and SOC 200.

DEGREE:

A certificate is awarded upon completion of the DAT courses, ENG 101, MTH 116 (or higher level Math), PSY 200, and SPH 106 or 107 for a total of 48 credit hours. Students may work as dental assistants after successful completion of the certificate. Additional requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree are a Fine Arts elective, CIS 146, BIO 103, and SOC 200.

This is a career program designed for students to go directly into the labor market upon completion. Although some of the courses in this program will transfer to four-year institutions, this program is not designed to be a transfer program of study; therefore, it is not subject to the terms and conditions of STARS.

Program: Dental Assistant

Type: A.A.S.

SEMESTER ONE

ORI 101 may not be required for those with prior college coursework. MTH 100, 112, 113 or a higher level math may be substituted for MTH 116. SPH 106 may be taken in place of SPH 107. The courses listed for this semester are required for the Dental Assisting Associate Degree and Dental Assisting Certificate.

Item #	Title	Credits
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
	SPH 106 or SPH 107	3
	MTH 116 or more advanced	3
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
ORI 101	Orientation to College	1

SEMESTER TWO

The courses listed for this semester are required for a Dental Assisting Associate Degree, and are not required for a certificate.

Item #	Title	Credits
CIS 146	Microcomputer Applications	3
	Humanities and Fine Arts Elective	3
SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology	3
BIO 103	Principles of Biology I	4

SEMESTER THREE

DAT 101 and DAT 102 procedures are taught to laboratory competence.

Item #	Title	Credits
DAT 100	Introduction to Dental Assisting	2
DAT 101	Pre-Clinical Procedures I	3
DAT 102	Dental Materials	3
DAT 103	Anatomy and Physiology for Dental Assisting	3
DAT 104	Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2

SEMESTER FOUR

DAT 112 procedures are taught to clinical competence.

Item #	Title	Credits
DAT 111	Clinical Practice I	5
DAT 112	Dental Radiology	3
DAT 113	Dental Health Education	2
DAT 116	Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3

SEMESTER FIVE

Item #	Title	Credits
DAT 121	Dental Office Procedures	3
DAT 122	Clinical Practice II	4
DAT 126	Dental Assisting Seminar	3
	Total credits:	62