

WESTERN DAKOTA TECH

DENTAL ASSISTING

Diploma, 44 Credit Hours, 11-Month Program

The dental assistant is an integral, valued member of the dental team. Graduates of the diploma program will be highly trained dental assisting candidates who have the skills required to be competent members of a dental healthcare team, deliver quality dental healthcare to the public, and have the knowledge necessary to become a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in the state of South Dakota. Dental assisting tasks include providing direct patient care, assisting during a variety of dental procedures, obtaining medical/dental histories, vital signs, dental radiographs, and impressions for dental models, teaching patients appropriate oral hygiene strategies, applying preventive agents, placing pit and fissure sealants, developing, coordinating, and serving as an infection control officer, and performing office management tasks. The dental assistant may work in a private or group practice setting specializing in general dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, or pedodontics. Dental sales and marketing of products is another career opportunity for the dental assistant. Dental assistants must have strong communication skills, a desire to work with their hands, and a passion for a challenging career with responsibilities that increase the efficiency and quality of oral health care delivery.

| Course | No. | Course Title | Credits |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--|-----------|
| General Education Requirements | | | |
| CIS | 105 | MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS I | 3 |
| ENGL | 101 | COMPOSITION* <i>or</i> | 3 |
| ENGL | 106 | WORKPLACE COMMUNICATIONS I* | |
| MATH | 100 | ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA** <i>or higher</i> | 3 |
| PSYC | 101 | GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY <i>or</i> | 3 |
| PSYC | 103 | HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE | |
| Total | | | 12 |
| Technical Requirements | | | |
| DEN | 105 | DENTAL SCIENCES AND ORAL HEALTH | 3 |
| DEN | 109 | CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING LAB I | 4 |
| DEN | 112 | DENTAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT | 2 |
| DEN | 113 | PHARMACOLOGY AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES | 3 |
| DEN | 122 | DENTAL MATERIALS | 3 |
| DEN | 134 | DENTAL RADIOLOGY | 3 |
| DEN | 141 | CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING LAB II | 4 |
| DEN | 155 | INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL PRACTICES <i>online</i> | 2 |
| DEN | 175 | DENTAL CLINICAL PRACTICES | 8 |
| Total | | | 32 |

*Prerequisite: Acceptable ACCUPLACER score or Basic Writing.

**Prerequisite: Acceptable ACCUPLACER score or Basic Math.

Clinicals, practicums, and internships may include, but are not limited to, differential shifts (evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays) to meet industry expectations. This may require travel outside the Rapid City area.

2022-2023 Academic Catalog - 5/2022

Apply online today at wdt.edu or call Admissions Department at (605)718-2565 or email admissions@wdt.edu

Learn. Do. Now.

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Semester Breakdown Diploma

| First Semester | | | Second Semester | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| | | CR | | | CR |
| DEN 105 | Dental Sciences and Oral Health | 3 | CIS 105 | Microcomputer Software Applications I | 3 |
| DEN 109 | Chairside Dental Assisting Lab I | 4 | DEN 134 | Dental Radiology | 3 |
| DEN 112 | Dental Practice Management | 2 | DEN 141 | Chairside Dental Assisting Lab II | 4 |
| DEN 113 | Pharmacology and Medical Emergencies | 3 | DEN 155 | Introduction to Dental Practices <i>online</i> | 2 |
| DEN 122 | Dental Materials | 3 | ENGL 101 | Composition <i>or</i> | 3 |
| MATH 100 | Elementary Algebra <i>or higher</i> | 3 | ENGL 106 | Workplace Communications I | |
| | | | PSYC 101 | General Psychology <i>or</i> | 3 |
| | | | PSYC 103 | Human Relations in the Workplace | |
| Total Credit Hours | | 18 | Total Credit Hours | | 18 |
| Third Semester (Summer) | | | | | |
| | | CR | | | |
| DEN 175 | Dental Clinical Practices | 8 | | | |
| Total Credit Hours | | 8 | | | |

If you are or have been convicted, pleaded guilty or no contest to, or received a suspended imposition of sentence for a felony or certain misdemeanors, you are advised that you may not be able to complete all course requirements for your chosen program, you may be prevented from taking required certification/licensure examinations in your chosen program field, and you may be prevented from gaining employment in your program field.