

WESTERN DAKOTA

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DENTAL ASSISTING

Diploma, 41 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			
ENGL	101	COMPOSITION I* <i>or</i>	3
ENGL	106	WORKPLACE COMMUNICATIONS I*	
MATH	105	MATHEMATICAL REASONING** <i>or higher</i>	3
PSYC	101	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY <i>or</i>	3
PSYC	103	HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE	
		Total	9
Technical Requirements			
DEN	105	DENTAL SCIENCES AND ORAL HEALTH	3
DEN	108	CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING LAB I	5
DEN	112	DENTAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT	2
DEN	113	PHARMACOLOGY AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES	3
DEN	122	DENTAL MATERIALS	3
DEN	134	DENTAL RADIOLOGY	3
DEN	148	CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING LAB II	5
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.

Professional licensure and certification requirements often vary from state to state. Educational requirements by state for this program can be found <https://www.wdt.edu/degree-programs/dental-assistant/>.

[Required steps to obtain the credential for the Dental Assisting Program. \(PDF\).](#)

Semester breakdown on next page

2024-2025 Academic Catalog – 6/2024

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Semester Breakdown Diploma

First Semester			Second Semester		
		CR			CR
DEN 105	Dental Sciences and Oral Health	3	DEN 112	Dental Practice Management	2
DEN 108	Chairside Dental Assisting Lab I	5	DEN 134	Dental Radiology	3
DEN 113	Pharmacology and Medical Emergencies	3	DEN 148	Chairside Dental Assisting Lab II	5
DEN 122	Dental Materials	3	ENGL 101	Composition I <i>or</i>	3
MATH 105	Mathematical Reasoning <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		17	Total Credit Hours		16
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.

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