

# Dental Assistant

Program Number: 30-508-2

## Less-Than-One-Year Diploma

Health-Related Professions Program Cluster

Center of Health & Safety Education

Program offered at Madison Campuses

For information call: (608) 246-6065, (608) 243-4221 or  
(800) 322-6282 Ext. 6065 or 4221

## About the Program

The Dental Assistant program prepares graduates to work with dentists as they examine and treat patients. Dental Assistants with documented skills also may carry out a variety of laboratory, clinical and office duties. Graduates receive a technical diploma. Most dental assistants work in general or specialized dental offices, either for individual dentists or for groups of dentists. The dental assistant also may find employment with federal agencies such as the Veterans' Administration, United States Public Health Services, the Armed Forces, or a state, county or city health facility.

Dental Assistant is a one-semester program. Students are accepted for both fall and spring semesters.

## Unique Requirements for Admission

- 1) High School graduation, HSED or GED;
- 2) One unit of science and math, with a grade of C or better;
- 3) Satisfactory score on COMPASS, ASSET or equivalent assessment test.

## Program Requirements

Physical exam and completed Health History Form on file prior to beginning the clinical affiliations. Students must be certified in health care provider CPR before beginning Dental Assistant clinical course work.

## Curriculum

First Semester		Credits	Hrs/week Lec-Lab
10-508-101	Dental Health Safety .....	1	0-1
31-508-302	Dental Chairside .....	5	3-5
10-508-113	Dental Materials .....	2	1-2
31-508-304	Dental & General Anatomy .....	2	3-0
31-508-305	Applied Dental Radiography .....	2	2-2
31-508-306	Dental Assistant Clinical.....	3	90 hrs
31-508-307	Dental Assistant Professionalism.....	1	2-0
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>	

Note: A copy of the essential functions necessary to successfully complete the program of study is available upon request from the division office.

## Program Courses

**10-508-101 Dental Health Safety 1 credit**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to respond proactively to dental emergencies, control infection, prevent disease, adhere to OSHA Standards and safely manage hazardous materials. Students also take patient vital signs and collect patient medical/dental histories. CPR certification is a prerequisite; students will be required to show proof of certification before beginning the course. Prerequisites: Students must be currently recognized/ certified in basic life support procedures for health care provider, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation prior to enrollment in this course.

**10-508-113 Dental Materials 2 credits**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to handle and prepare dental materials such as liners, bases, cements, amalgam, resin restorative materials, gypsum products and impression materials. Students also learn to take alginate impressions and clean removable appliances. Prerequisites: completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Dental Health Safety, 10-508-101.

**31-508-302 Dental Chairside 5 credits**

Prepares dental assistant students to chart oral cavity structures, dental pathology and restorations and to assist a dentist with basic dental procedures including examinations, pain control, amalgam restoration and cosmetic restoration. Student will also develop the ability to educate patients about preventive dentistry, brushing and flossing techniques, and dental procedures, using lay terminology. Throughout the course, students will apply decoding strategies to the correct use and interpretation of dental terminology. Prerequisites: completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Dental Health Safety, 10-508-101.

**31-508-304 Dental & General Anatomy 2 credits**

Prepares dental assistant students to apply fundamentals of general and dental anatomy to informed decision making and to professional communication with colleagues and patients. Prerequisites: acceptance into the Dental Assistant program.

**31-508-305 Applied Dental Radiography 2 credits**

Prepares dental auxiliary students to operate x-ray units and expose bitewing, periapical, extra oral and occlusal radiographs. Emphasis is placed on protection against x-ray hazards. Students also process, mount and evaluate radiographs for diagnostic value. Prerequisites: completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Dental Health Safety, 10-508-101, and Dental and General Anatomy, 31-508-304.

**31-508-306 Dental Assistant Clinical 3 credits**

Students apply skills developed in Dental and General Anatomy, Dental Health Safety, Dental Chairside, Dental Materials, Dental Radiography and Professionalism in a clinical setting with patients. Emphasizes integration of core abilities and basic occupational skills. Prerequisites: completion of or concurrent enrollment in, Dental Health Safety, 10-508-101, Dental and General Anatomy, 31-508-304, Dental Chairside, 31-508-302, Dental Materials, 10-508-113, Applied Dental Radiography, 31-508-305 and Dental Assistant Professionalism, 31-508-307.

**31-508-307 Dental Assistant Professionalism 1 credit**

Prepares dental assistant students for professional success in a dental practice or another dental health care environment. Students develop professional appearance and image. More importantly, they learn to work within ethical guidelines and legal frameworks. In preparation for entering the work force, dental assistants customize or develop their portfolios and lay out an on-going professional development plan. Prerequisite: acceptance into the Dental Assistant program.

## Career Potential:

- **Chairside Assistants**  
Work directly with the dentist in the treatment area.
- **Laboratory Assistants**  
Perform laboratory functions as directed by the dentist.
- **Receptionists/Office Assistants**  
Responsible for the operation of the business office.
- **Claims Approvers**  
Work for an insurance company approving dental insurance claims.

With additional education and/or work experience, graduates may find employment as:

- **Dental Treatment Coordinator**  
Are responsible for the operation of the practice.
- **Dental Laboratory Technicians**  
Perform the mechanical, technically skilled tasks specified by the written prescription of the dentist.
- **Dental Sales Representative**  
Work for a dental supply business, which provides products and services to dental offices.

*More detailed and updated information on this program may be available at: [malcmadison.edu](http://malcmadison.edu). The college reserves the right to make changes in the regulations and courses announced in this publication without notice.*

*Madison Area Technical College provides equal opportunity in education and employment.*

Rev. 05/09