

Dental Assistant

- TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

CAREER DESCRIPTION

Dental assistants work at chairside as dentists examine and treat patients. The assistant prepares the patient for treatment, obtains dental records and provides instruments and materials needed during treatment procedures. The dental assistant also provides post-treatment instruction, instructs patients in oral health care, takes impressions for study casts, exposes radiographs and processes dental x-ray film as directed by the dentist.

In some dental offices, assistants perform business office and laboratory duties as well. The wide range of tasks that a dental assistant may perform requires both technical and interpersonal skills. A dental assistant may be employed in general dentistry or in any dental specialty area. Employment opportunities include solo or group dental practices, government clinics, hospitals or teaching institutions.

CAREER TITLE

- Dental Assistant



Call now! **316.677.9400**

WICHITA AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
301 S. Grove
Wichita, KS 67211-2099

WATC
www.watc.edu

Dental Assistant

WAGE

According to the Kansas Department of Labor, the median wage for such jobs in Kansas is \$13.38; in the Wichita area the median wage is \$12.84.

JOB PROSPECTS

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for dental assistants is expected to grow 29 percent from 2006 to 2016, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. In fact, dental assisting is expected to be among the fastest growing occupations over the 2006-16 projection period.

Population growth, greater retention of natural teeth by middle-aged and older people, and an increased focus on preventive dental care for younger generations will fuel demand for dental services. In addition, as dentists' workloads increase, they are expected to hire more assistants to perform routine tasks, so that they may devote their own time to more complex procedures.

Numerous job openings will arise out of the need to replace assistants who transfer to other occupations, retire, or leave for other reasons. Dentists may offer opportunities for on-the-job training for entry level positions, but many dentists prefer to hire experienced assistants or those who have completed a dental assisting program.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

A technical certificate is offered in Dental Assistant.

A certificate of completion is offered in Supraperforation Scaling.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides the educational environment and experiences to prepare for employment as a dental assistant. The program graduate has the knowledge and skills necessary to assist during the delivery of dental care, perform supportive treatment procedures and basic business office tasks. Graduates may take the Dental Assisting National Board examination to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA).

Students may request consideration for advanced placement by submitting an official transcript of coursework. This program does not offer credit for experiential learning.

FINANCIAL AID

Most programs are eligible for financial aid through a combination of federal, state, local and private sources. Please check with the financial aid office for details.

JOB PLACEMENT

Job placement services are available to assist students in finding employment in their occupational fields.