

RCTC PROGRAM PLAN

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Diploma

Program Accreditation: American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, in compliance with the standards set forth by the ADA Council on Dental Education.

I. PROGRAM CORE REQUIREMENTS.....47 CREDITS

- DA 1200, Dental Communications, 3 cr
- DA 1210, Dental Science I, 3 cr
- DA 1215, Dental Practice Management, 2 cr
- DA 1220, Chairside Assisting I, 6 cr
- DA 1225, Dental Infection Control, 2 cr
- DA 1230, Preventive Dentistry, 2 cr
- DA 1250, Dental Science II, 3 cr
- DA 1255, Dental Materials, 4 cr
- DA 1260, Chairside Assisting II, 4 cr
- *DA 1265, Expanded Functions, 7 cr
- *DA 1270, Expanded Functions II, 1 cr
- *DA 1280, Dental Assisting Internship, 7 cr
- *DA 1275: Dental Radiology, 3 cr

TOTAL47 CREDITS

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the Dental Assistant program at RCTC, students will achieve the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of dental terminology and the dental sciences.
- Collect systematically and record accurately record diagnostic and clinical data.
- Employ current principles of effective chairside assisting for general and dental specialty procedures and dental/medical emergencies.
- Demonstrate proficiency in performing expanded functions for Minnesota licensed dental assistants.
- Implement current principles and guidelines of dental infection control, aseptic techniques and hazards management.
- Prepare and manipulate chairside and dental laboratory materials and fabricate dental models, impression trays and appliances.
- Provide oral health instruction to dental patients and community groups.
- Perform patient reception and dental business office procedures effectively.
- Communicate effectively and establish positive working relationships with patients and members of the dental health care team.
- Function in a responsible, professional and ethical manner.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

PURPOSE: The Dental Assistant major is designed to provide the student with the technical knowledge, manual skills, clinical experiences, communication skills, and positive attitudes toward work required to make the graduate a valuable member of the dental health care profession. The Dental Assistant Program may be completed in one year as a full-time student, or in two years as a part-time student.

The dental assistant may assist the dentist at chairside, perform expanded functions and dental laboratory procedures, or act as a receptionist or an office manager. The program prepares the student to function in both general and specialty dental practices.

Clinical experience is obtained in the technically current dental clinic. The clinic has twelve operatories equipped for four-handed dentistry, a recirculatory/sterilization room, a darkroom for processing x-rays, and a complete dental laboratory. Patients come to the dental clinic for tooth polishing, fluoride treatments, dental x-rays, pit and fissure sealants and personal oral care instruction. A dentist is on staff to aid in the direct instruction and supervision of students, along with dentists from the community who give guest presentations. In the summer semester, students will further their clinical experience through three assigned internships in different dental offices in southeastern Minnesota.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the Minnesota licensure exam, Minnesota jurisprudence exam and the national certification exam for dental assistants.

For more information on program admission requirements, please see the department website at <https://www.rctc.edu/program/da/admission>

MORE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS:

(*Students must show current certification in either American Red Cross: CPR for the Professional Rescuer or American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider to enroll in this course. The certification will need to remain active throughout the final semester in Dental Assisting.)

Notice of Minnesota Background Study Requirement

Minnesota Statute 245C requires that students who have contact with individuals in licensed institutions complete an annual background study with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Individuals who do not pass the background study will not be allowed to participate in clinical activities. A list of disqualifying offenses is available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=245C.15>. Students in the program will also be required to complete a national criminal background study. Information about completing both background studies will be available from program faculty.

Revised: 07/11/2019

Implementation: Fall 2019