

Dental Assistant Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Allan Hancock College
Cerritos College
Chaffey Community College
Citrus College
City College of San Francisco
College of Alameda
College of Marin
College of San Mateo
College of the Redwoods
Contra Costa College
Cypress College
Diablo Valley College
Foothill College
Lake Tahoe Community College
Modesto Junior College
Monterey Peninsula College
Orange Coast College
Oxnard College
Palomar College
Pasadena City College
Reedley College
Sacramento City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Jose City College
Santa Rosa Junior College

Sources for Further Information About Dental Assistants:

California Community Colleges' Health Program Directory (RHORCs)
<http://www.healthoccupations.org/ccchealth/>

Dental Board of California
<http://www.dbc.ca.gov>

California Dental Assistants Association
<http://www.cdaaweb.org>

Health Care Careers
<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occmisc/HealthCareCareers.pdf>

Registered Dental Assistant Licensing Agency:

Dental Board of California
<http://www.dbc.ca.gov>

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9049.



ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
through the
CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

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The California Community Colleges
Allied Health Programs

Step Up to the
Future as a

**Dental
Assistant**



Dental Assistant



Step Up to the Future!

Facts About Dental Assistants & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Dental Assistants from 2006–2016 will increase by 34.9 percent with an annual average of 2,170 job openings per year.

To become a Registered Dental Assistant in the State of California you must be a high school graduate and pass a State written examination and practical

examination. To be eligible to take the exam you must complete a Board approved Dental Assistant Program, a minimum of 720 hours; or you must complete 1,560 hours paid work experience as Dental Assistant with a licensed Dentist in the United States; or complete a Department of Education approved 4-month education program and 11 months of work experience with a licensed Dentist in the U.S. (www.dbc.ca.gov)

Fingerprinting and clearance by the Department of Justice and the FBI is required before a license is issued.



What Does a Dental Assistant Do?

Dental Assistants work along with Dentists and Dental hygienists and perform a variety of office, patient care, and laboratory tasks. Dental Assistants prepare patients for treatment and examinations and assure that dental records, supplies, and instruments are ready for the dentists to use. Assistants help the dentist at chair-side by handing instruments and materials to the dentists and keeping patients comfortable and relaxed. They also prepare patients for x-rays, take x-rays, process films, sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, take impressions, and instruct patients in post-treatment care. (<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occmisc/HealthCareCareers.pdf>)

Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

- Detail oriented.
- Tolerance for working with oral secretions and blood.
- Organized, accurate and careful.
- Calm and pleasant.
- Desire to help others feel calm when they are anxious or afraid.
- Ability to give clear instructions and to educate others.
- Ability to follow and take directions.
- Good reading comprehension, communication skills and listening skills.
- Willingness to work with x-ray equipment.
- Accurate in recording information.
- Tolerance for standing or sitting for long periods of time.
- Assertiveness to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task.



How Much Can I Earn?

The earnings of Dental Assistants vary according to their education, skill level, years of experience and geographic location.

Salaries vary widely throughout California. In 2009, according to the EDD Labor Market Information Division, the median (midpoint) hourly wage was \$15.82 in California with a median annual salary of \$32,908. In the Bay Area, median salaries ranged from \$42,340 in the East Bay Area to \$37,503 in the San Francisco Bay Area. In Sonoma County the median salary was \$48,088 while in Kern County the median salary was \$25,389. Salaries are notably lower in other states in the U.S.

For more information on salaries go to: <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>

