Dental Assistant

• Vital team members who serve as “generalists” in dental practices.
• Versatile
  – Chairsde working with dentist, hygienist, or by themselves.
  – Taking diagnostic quality radiographs
  – Disinfection and Sterilization
  – Mixing of various materials
  – Dental impressions
  – Fabrication of temporary restorations, study models, whitening trays
  – Obtaining and documenting dental information
  – Oral Hygiene instruction
  – Various office and managerial responsibilities
  – Many other duties..........................
Educational requirements, job titles and allowable functions vary from state to state.

**Alabama**
- DA's may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state Dental Practice Act.
- Legally operate dental x-ray equipment under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.
- Certification is not mandated.
  - **HOWEVER** – employers and job recruiters prefer candidates who are certified.
  - Surveys have shown that certified DA's earn more per hour on average.
Certification
  * Demonstrates a commitment to the profession and lifelong learning.
  * CCC DA program prepares students for success on the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. examinations that earn the CDA credential.
  * Eligibility for sitting for the exam = Successfully complete an ACCREDITED DA program.

* Anything other than, does not qualify.

**Don’t trust phrases like this....**
"We are licensed and regulated by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, plus the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, so you’ll receive the same certificates as any other school in Alabama!"

or
"We are licensed by Private School Licensure Division, Alabama Community College System"

---

**Program Accreditation**

The Calhoun Community College program in dental assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and has been granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

**Commission on Dental Accreditation**
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678
1-800-621-8099, ext. 4653

CODA®
Dental Assistant vs Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists
- State licensed
- Clean teeth
- Examine patients for oral diseases (periodontal disease).
- Provide other preventative dental care including education on improving and maintaining good oral health.

• Dental hygienists typically must have an associate’s degree in dental hygiene.
• Many begin their career as a dental assistant, as some dental hygiene educational programs require a dental assisting certificate or clinical practice experience to apply.

Eligibility Criteria examples...
For full list go to the FAQ section on www.Calhoun.edu/DAT

- Be independently mobile and able to stand, bend, twist, stoop, squat, and sit
- Coordinate eye and hand movements to satisfactorily manipulate instruments, supplies and equipment with speed, dexterity, and proficiency
- See with 20/40 visual acuity and possess sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate needs of the dentist and patient while working chair side
- Distinguish colors and discern variation in shades and tone
- Hear high and low frequency sounds within a normal range
- Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the speaker’s mouth and lips
- Smell body and environmental odors
- Communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, in English
- Work in a confined space and remain in one location for an extended period of time
- Lift, push, and/or pull 20 pounds
- Reach and position overhead equipment
- Sustain repetitive movements
- Demonstrate the physical stamina to work a minimum of an 8-hour day
- Grasp small objects
- Correctly perform simple mathematical computations
- Be free of reportable communicable diseases and substance a
- Seek supervision and consultation in a timely manner
Work Environment

- Clean
- Stressful
- Fast paced
- Sometimes unpleasant sights or smells.
- Hazards - Chemicals, fumes, bloodborne pathogens, radiation.

Employment

- Variety of dental offices.
- Good local demand. Good growth estimates.
- Starting pay in Huntsville area $12.00 to $15.00+ per hour.
Completion Options

• Degree options
  – Long Certificate
  – AAS Degree
• All students complete the Long Certificate.
• Those completing the additional general education courses may also qualify for the AAS Degree.
• Do not overload schedule with additional general education courses while in the program.

Selection Process

• Admissions committee for the program will review each application.
• Applications are ranked using a point scale.
• Admission is granted to up to 25 students (depending on local market needs) with the highest application scores.
• Meeting minimal admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance.
• Number of students enrolled in the Dental Assisting program must be limited and therefore the application process is competitive.
• All applications are evaluated by the Admissions Committee and assigned a score based solely on the defined point system.
• Applications to begin the DA program must be received before the deadline to be considered.
• Incomplete applications are not considered.
Admission Criteria

• Meet all admission requirements of Calhoun Community College
• Submit an online 2020 DA Program Application packet which includes:
  • Observation Form: Documentation of eight (8) hours of dental assisting observation signed by a dentist or dental office manager.
  • Current BLS CPR Certification valid until August 2021.*
  • Attend an Information session.

Once in.......

• Attend Orientation
  – Submit to a background check and drug screening by a vendor designated by the College to comply with clinical affiliate contracts.
  – Uniform Fitting
• Health Documentation
  – Health Examination completed by licensed physician/CRNP.
  – Provide documentation of immunization to certain communicable diseases.
  – Undergo tuberculosis screening
• Purchase professional liability insurance through the College.
Background Check and Drug Screen

• All students entering the dental assisting program must be successfully cleared on a drug screen and a background check.
• Any student may be randomly screened for drugs usage or criminal activity during the course of the program.
• If a student is disqualified from clinical at any of the program’s affiliates, the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

Uniforms

• Students will be required to purchase and wear an approved uniform to class, lab, and clinical.
• Students must follow policy and instruction for proper surgical attire.
  – Failure to do so is a safety violation and could result in dismissal from the program.
  – This includes but is not limited to appropriately worn attire and cover-up, limitations on jewelry, prohibition of false nails, colognes and certain piercings.
Tobacco Free

- Calhoun Community College is a tobacco free campus.
- Most local dental offices are tobacco free and have strict policies against tobacco use.
- No tobacco products or vapor devices will be used on campus or at any clinical affiliate by dental assisting students, faculty, or staff while functioning in a capacity representing Calhoun.

Program Progression

- Pass all courses with a 75% average.
- Meet minimum competency requirements for skills.
- Complete all lab, practical, and clinical components of each course.
- Meet attendance requirements.
- Abide by all policies and procedures of the program.
- Meet Essential Competencies of Candidates for Admission, Continuance and Graduation.
- Successfully complete over 300+ hours of clinical rotations
- Apply for, pay cost of, and sit for the DANB Certified Dental Assistant Examination
  - 3 components
    - Infection Control (fall semester)
    - Radiation Health and Safety (spring semester)
    - General Chairsde (summer semester)
Estimated Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health credentialing</td>
<td>$100-500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(physical &amp; immunizations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees.</td>
<td>$6000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books.</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug screen/BG Check</td>
<td>$100-400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7000-8000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation

- Each student is **responsible** for their **own** transportation to class and to clinical sites.
- May be assigned to **any** of the clinical sites that the program uses.
Clinical Sites

Various dental practices throughout the surrounding area

- Athens
- Madison
- Huntsville
- Decatur
- Priceville
- Hartselle
- Florence
- Muscle Shoals

All areas in between (Toney, Harvest, Rogersville)

Clinical Hours

- Are scheduled to be representative of a normal dental work schedule.
  - Up to 15-18 hours per week.
- Must be able to be at clinical site by start of business and remain there until the close of business
  - Vary each office
- Clinical schedule
  - Spring Semester = Tuesday/Thursday
  - Summer semester can vary Monday/Tuesday, Tuesday/Thursday, or Monday/Thursday
- Your hours must be flexible and adaptable.
For More Information

• Refer to Dental Assistant Program Frequent Questions and Answers on program website.

• Contact Misty Greene, Allied Health Department secretary, at 256.306.2786 or misty.greene@calhoun.edu