



San Diego Mesa College Dental Assisting Program Information and Application Guidelines for 2019-2020

Application Filing Period
Feb. 1, 2019 and no later than March 22, 2019

Program website
www.sdmesa.edu/dental-assisting

Job Title: Dental Assistant

Job Description

Dental Assistants are skilled members of the allied dental health care team, assisting dentists in all dental procedures. They may be licensed by the State as a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) to perform direct patient care under the supervision of a dentist. Dental assistants prepare patients for treatment, take x-rays, sterilize, and assist the dentist in performing dental procedures. They may work for general dentists or specialists in areas such as orthodontics, endodontics, surgery, and pediatric dentistry.

Program Description

The program is accredited by the Dental Board of California (DBC), and the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association. The length of the Dental Assisting Program is one summer session and two- semesters (Fall & Spring) which will earn you a Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assisting. Classroom and laboratory instruction includes nutrition, preventive dentistry, basic dental sciences such as: physiology, anatomy of the teeth and mouth, biology of dental disease, etc.; dental materials, dental specialties, legal considerations in dentistry, and the psychology of patient-dental assistant relationship, as well as the functions and duties required of the California Registered Dental Assistant. Courses include Directed Clinical Practice which is planned and supervised by the Dental Assisting Program Director and faculty.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the California Registered Dental Assistant's state examination and the Certified Dental Assistant National Examination. A Radiation Safety, Infection Control, California Dental Practice Act, Coronal Polishing and Dental Sealant Certifications will be issued upon successful completion of the program.

Attitudes and Characteristics of the Successful Dental Assistant

- Attention to detail
- Desire to learn specialized procedures
- Service oriented
- Enjoy working with a diverse population of employees and patients, as well as the special needs patients.
- Flexible; ethical; reliable; anticipates; versatile; timely; and exhibits the manual dexterity, visual and auditory acuity and motor coordination necessary.
- Patient; emotionally stable; demonstrates sound judgment, tact and self control.
- Able to work directly under a dentist's direction; can follow written and verbal instructions; accepts responsibility for the results of his/her actions.
- Team player who works within the parameters of the dental assisting job description in an ethical manner and who is able to communicate with health team members, patients, and patient's families.
- Able to accept constructive criticism and perform self evaluation activities which result in personal and professional growth.

Employment Outlook

Dental Assisting offers excellent career opportunities. Employment may be obtained in private dental offices, dental public health clinics, hospitals, mobile dental clinics, dental schools, government facilities, dental equipment and supply sales, dental practice management, insurance companies, teaching in dental assisting programs, and service in volunteer/humanitarian organizations.

Probable Salary Range for the San Diego Area

Starting Range for San Diego County: approximately \$18-25 per hour.

Program Director

Margaret Fickess, RDA, CDA, MEd
Tel: (619) 388-2697
Email: mfickess@sdccd.edu
Allied Health Bldg, S314

Academic Counselor

Nicholas DeMeo
Tel: (619) 388-2668
Email: ndemeo@sdccd.edu
14-303

Special Admissions

James Aregard
Tel: (619) 388-2684
Email: jarnegar@sdccd.edu
14-102

Fall Program Prerequisite

Dental Assisting 050 and Dental Assisting 056.

Highly Recommended- Students are encouraged to take one or more of the following courses prior to acceptance into the Program

Allied Health courses, English for Speakers of Other Language courses (ESOL), English 101-Reading & composition, BUSE 119-Business Communication, Personal Growth courses, or computer courses.

NOTE: Students are expected to arrange their schedule to attend the program as a full time student.

Admission Requirements for summer

- Students applying to the Dental Assisting program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Completed applications will be accepted by the date and time received.
- Applicants interested in entering the program must:
 1. **Apply to the dental assisting program**
 2. **Attend one of the Dental Assisting Program's "Information Sessions" – Room S-117/118. See website for dates, times and locations: <http://www.sdmesa.edu/allied-health> Dec. 3, 2018 or March 18, 2019**
 3. **Submit the Program Application no sooner than February 1, 2019 & no later than March 22, 2019**
 4. **Upon acceptance of your completed application to the summer class and the Special Admissions has received your confirmation slip, you will be able to enroll in the first summer class - DENA 050.**
- Continuation into the fall semester is dependent upon completion of **DENA 050 and DENA 056** courses with a grade of "C" (seventy five percent) or higher.
- For further information about the curriculum and/or the Program please email the Dental Assisting Program Director at www.mfickess@sdccd.edu.

Degrees Granted

- **Certificate of Achievement** = one summer session & two semesters (Fall & Spring) for successful completion of the Dental Assisting Program.
- **Associate in Science** – see College catalog and a college counselor for requirements.

Employment Placement

Graduates of the program may use the Community College District's placement services and the Dental Assisting Program to help them find employment.

Cost

The cost for books, supplies, uniforms and name badge is moderate. Students who are eligible must pay State and National examination fees and provide all instruments and supplies needed for the State's practical examination. Students meeting the California residency requirement currently pay \$46.00 per unit enrollment fee: this fee is subject to legislative and gubernatorial action, and may change without notice. Total program costs may run as high as \$2600. A higher tuition is charged to students who are not residents of California. Consult the current Mesa College catalog for specific information and details of each dental assisting course. www.sdmesa.edu

A radiation dosimeter fee is assessed to the student for each semester that he/she is participating in the dental x-ray courses. The District will enroll the student in a blanket program of professional liability insurance coverage for one million dollars per District policy.

The student will need to pay for a TB skin test (or its equivalent), Hepatitis B vaccination and provide other immunization records before the beginning of the fall semester. The student will be required to pay for physical exams prior to beginning the clinical experiences and complete any required immunizations. **Each student will be provided the physical exam form during the summer session.** The student will also need to purchase a uniform, name badge, books, typodont, instrument kit and supplies (about \$600-800). A reliable means of transportation is necessary while in the program and dormitories are not available on the campus. The student is required to have a current, eight hour hands-on instruction through the American Heart Association or American Red Cross **"Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider"** (BLS) card prior to beginning the clinical experience during the Fall semester. The BLS course is offered to the students during the first week of classes (Fee to be announced). Students choosing not to attend the course offering are responsible for obtaining certification prior to the clinical experience.

Selection Procedures for Fall Semester

If more students are successful in the summer class (DENA 056) than the cap allows, which is based on our state and national accreditation, the following will be the revised selection process:

- Students will be selected by the date and time that their application was received.
- The remaining students who meet the requirements will be wait listed for the following year. A new application will need to be submitted for the following year.