

Dental Assisting

Dental Assisting is a half-credit course that introduces students in Grades 10-12 to the dental profession. Course content specifies core knowledge and skills needed by workers in a dental office. The content emphasizes careers in dental care, the history and use of dentistry, infection control, and dental care procedures. Upon successful completion of this course, students may choose to continue studies in Advanced Health Seminar or Work-Based Experience Seminar. Foundations of Health Science is a prerequisite course.

Career and technical student organizations are integral, cocurricular components of each career and technical education course. These organizations serve as a means to enhance classroom instruction while helping students develop leadership abilities, expand workplace-readiness skills, and broaden opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Dental Personnel

Students will:

1. Compare roles of the dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant.
2. Describe personal characteristics required in the dental workplace.
Examples: displaying positive attitudes, maintaining ethical behavior, adhering to dress code

Dental Laws

3. Demonstrate communication skills needed while counseling clients, documenting care, and communicating through various forms of electronic media.
4. Recognize state laws and regulations pertaining to dentistry.
Examples: confidentiality, patient information, legal rights

Dental Equipment

5. Demonstrate correct use of x-ray machines, dental instruments, dental chairs, and sterilizer equipment in the dental laboratory.
6. Organize a dental treatment room, including preparing procedure trays, seating the dental client, providing chair-side assistance, and demonstrating departure procedures.

Anatomy

7. Explain the anatomy of the head and neck, including the teeth and their surfaces.

Infection Control

8. Apply principles of preventive oral hygiene, including brushing teeth, flossing teeth, and maintaining a healthy diet.
9. Demonstrate infection control procedures used in a dental office.
Examples: sterilizing, disinfecting, using barrier techniques

Dental Procedures

10. Construct impressions for diagnostic and opposing models of teeth, including preparing for an alginate dental impression and a dental impression with plaster of paris.