

Dental Assisting

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT / ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

About This Program

Dental assistants perform a wide range of duties in dental care facilities, from patient care to office tasks and laboratory procedures. Students become skillful at taking X-rays and impressions, as well as performing coronal polishing and assisting with an array of dental procedures. The program covers patient preparation, charting, administrative duties and office administrative functions. Students gain hands-on experience during lab class sessions and clinical experience.

This program culminates in a Certificate of Achievement or Associate of Science degree in Dental Assisting.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings and completion rate of students who attended this program can be found at carrington.edu/cc/da.

Visit carrington.edu/student-consumer-info/ for important information on program outcomes.

Within the State of California, graduates are able to apply for and take the State of California Dental Board examination for licensure as a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA). Carrington College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual majors. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program.

General Education Coursework

Students in Carrington College's certificate programs complete technical coursework and participate in an online career development seminar course.**

In Carrington College's degree programs, students also complete a broad base of general education course offerings focusing on:

- Communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social sciences

**Campus based, Portland only

Technical Coursework

The Carrington College Dental Assisting curriculum begins with a broad base of knowledge on subjects ranging from anatomy of the head and mouth to sterilization techniques to front-office operations. Students' progress to learning specific skills and building their understanding of dental procedures performed in dental offices. As they near the end of their studies, Dental Assisting students complete an externship.

Carrington's academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/carrington-college/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission and graduation requirements.

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Careers in Dental Assisting*

It takes a lot of different people to keep a dental office running smoothly. Dental assistants are among the most crucial; their work ranges from patient care to office tasks and laboratory procedures. Their career path can lead to employment in a variety of health care environments such as:

- Dental Offices
- Private and governmental facilities
- Clinic
- Dental schools
- State and local public health departments

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Dental Assisting program, graduates will be able to:

- Perform dental assisting chair side duties
- Perform Coronal Polish on patients
- Take radiographs (X-rays) on clinical patients
- Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking, work collaboratively, communicate clearly and act professionally

* Individuals seeking to enter this career field may be subject to screenings such as, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug/alcohol testing prior to externship, to attain occupational licensure/certification or employment, and throughout their careers.

‡ Certificate is awarded from the Phoenix North campus.

Accreditation, Approvals and Program Availability

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, 415 506 0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the US Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

The Dental Board of California, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815, 877 729 7789, www.dbc.ca.gov, approves the Carrington College Dental Assisting programs at the Citrus Heights, Pleasant Hill, Pomona, Sacramento, San Jose, San Leandro and Stockton campuses.

For comprehensive information on Carrington's accreditation, licenses and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation.

The Dental Assisting Certificate of Achievement program is offered to new students at:

ALBUQUERQUE, NM	PLEASANT HILL, CA
BOISE, ID	PORTLAND, OR
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA	SACRAMENTO, CA
GLENDALE LEARNING	SAN JOSE, CA
CENTER, AZ ‡	SAN LEANDRO, CA
LAS VEGAS, NV	SPOKANE, WA
MESA, AZ	STOCKTON, CA
PHOENIX NORTH, AZ	TUCSON, AZ

Graduates of the Dental Assisting Certificate of Achievement program within the State of California are eligible to complete the Non-Science Emphasis Associate of Science degree program via the online degree-completion option.

Graduates of the Dental Assisting Certificate of Achievement program within the State of California are also eligible to complete the Science Emphasis Associate of Science degree program via the degree completion option that is offered at the Sacramento and San Jose campuses.