



**Health**

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# Dental Assisting

Department: Health

Degree: Diploma

Entry time: Fall, Spring

Length: 1 year (3 semesters, including 1 summer)

- The program boasts consistent pass rates that meet and **exceed the national average**.
- Those in the program have the chance to **attend state and local professional association meetings**.
- Students will receive **more clinical hours of experience than is required** from accreditation.
- The program features **experienced and caring faculty** in a progressive institution that allows for use of creative talent.
- The program stays on the **cutting edge** with state-of-the-art equipment.
- A **modern lab space** simulates the exact environment students will be in after graduating.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to [www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie](http://www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie) for more details.

## Program Description

Dental assistants play a key role in supporting dentists during procedures, as well as performing tasks such as polishing teeth, making x-rays, preparing dental materials, and sterilizing instruments. In addition, some dental assistants take on administrative responsibilities, including managing the office, handling patient accounts, scheduling appointments, and ordering supplies.

During this program, students will gain classroom, laboratory, and hands-on clinical experiences by working with patients at the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa and in community dental offices/clinics.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

## Career Opportunities

Private dental offices  
Specialty practices  
Public health or other community clinics  
Hospital dentistry  
Dental sales and insurance

## Sample Classes

Dental Assisting I, II, and III  
Dental Materials  
Fundamentals of Dentistry  
Dental Anatomy  
Oral Pathology for Dental Assisting  
Preventive Dentistry  
Dental Radiography  
Dental Assisting Clinic I and II

## A.A.S. Option

An A.A.S. in Dental Assisting is available to students upon completion of additional coursework.

## Dental Assisting A.A.S.

2 years (4 semesters, including 1 summer)

## Accreditation

The Dental Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of compliance without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Successful completion of the program entitles graduates to take the National Dental Assistant Certification Examination.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation  
211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678  
312-440-4653  
<https://coda.ada.org>

## Scholarships

Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

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