



Health

2164 Linn Hall
319-398-5566
800-332-2055
health@kirkwood.edu

Dental Assisting

Department: Health

Degree: Diploma

Entry time: Fall, Spring

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

- 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 for more details.

Program Description

A dental assistant is a vital part of the dental care team, supporting both patients and providers. Clinical responsibilities include making dental X-rays, preparing treatment rooms, assisting for various dental procedures, and sterilizing instruments. Dental assistants also contribute to the smooth operation of the practice by handling administrative tasks like scheduling appointments and maintaining patient records.

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

This 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

Kirkwood's 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
401 N Michigan Ave, Suite 3300
Chicago, IL 60611-4250
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.

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