



Student Information For DENTAL ASSISTING

Is this course for me?

Before selecting the Certificate III in Dental Assisting the following are important attributes for a career in dental work. Consider if you are:

- Good communicator?
- Actively engaged in learning more?
- Have an interest in health care work?
- Have good manual dexterity?
- Like variety in your day?
- Have patience?
- Able to concentrate and follow instructions?

What does dental assisting work involve?

Briefly, a dental assistant is someone who assists a range of oral health professionals such as Dentists, Dental Specialists, Oral Health Therapists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Prosthetists. Dental Assistants can undertake administrative tasks such as reception, appointment scheduling, payment and receipts as well as clinical management and chairside assisting. Dental Assistants work as a multiskilled member of a dental team, and can also work in management, health promotion and policy development roles.

Where can Dental Assistants work?

Private practices employ dental assistants in full time, part-time or casual positions. Public Health Services operate dental clinics in hospitals, schools or community based clinics, and dental assistants work with oral health therapists and dentists in these positions. Correctional Services, Defence forces and some aged care facilities provide oral health services and employ staff for these positions. Mobile dental clinics travel to aged care facilities and rural and remote areas providing dental treatment.

What will I be doing?

For Vet In School pathway:

The minimum work placement requirement for Certificate III in Dental Assisting is 105 hours. Work placement is to be undertaken in an appropriate dental work environment. It is permissible for up to 35 hours of work placement to be undertaken in a simulated work environment.

For School Based Traineeship:

A School Based Traineeship for the Certificate III in Dental Assisting provides you with the opportunity to gain the qualification and your HSC while undertaking paid employment as a trainee. As a school based trainee, you work part-time and complete the off the job training as part of the HSC. The training is provided in NSW by TAFE NSW or a private registered training organisation.

As a school-based trainee you will enter into a Training Contract for a term of sufficient duration to allow for the completion of the formal training requirements as well as the requirement of a minimum of 100 days of paid employment. (could be during school holidays and some early starts or shift work may be required).

What will I learn?

You'll be learning how to:

- Assist chair side in a dental practice or clinic
- Work as part of a team as well as independently
- Be a good communicator and listener
- Solve problems
- Be organised with good time management skills
- Maintain a high standard of infection control and workplace health and safety

Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the Dental Assisting qualification?

When selecting your HSC subjects you may wish to consider how they may complement to your vocational studies and contribute to achieving best results. For a Dental Assisting career pathway the following subjects may be beneficial:

- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- General Mathematics

Are there fees and costs?

If you are at a government high school the course cost is covered via the schools staffing allocation, this means that there is no direct cost to students. If you are at a non-government high school your school VET coordinator will explain about the different costs involved. You will also be responsible for the cost of immunisations and police checks.

What immunisations do I need?

To work in Dental Assisting you will need current immunisations to protect you from catching or spreading a number of illnesses, such as TB or Hepatitis B. You will need the following vaccinations to be completed - note you may have had some already so check with your Doctor: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, TB, Influenza (recommended). You will be responsible for the cost of immunisations needed.

Are there other requirements for Dental Assisting work?

You may need to wear uniforms during your employment, as set out by the employer. This is usually comfortable clothing such as black pants, white shirt and flat covered shoes. When at work you will need to maintain your personal hygiene, for example, to keep your clothing clean, hair tidy (long hair tied back), no visible tattoos or piercings (except single stud earring), no false nails and minimal jewellery (wedding band).

Your employer will provide you with details of the expected code of behaviour for their workplace but in general it will include confidentiality, ethical practice and compliance with workplace health and safety procedures. Personal mobile phones are not to be used at work.