

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BE A DENTAL PROFESSIONAL.

Become a Certified  
Dental Assistant  
in only one year,  
at Central Oregon  
Community College!



- Work as a team with other health care professionals to provide patient care
- Help improve patients' health
- Make patients feel cared for
- Assist the dentist and offer direct patient care
- Flexible work schedules and hours
- Good pay and benefits

COCC also offers Pre-Dental Hygiene and Pre-Dental curriculum.



**CENTRAL OREGON**  
community college  
cocc.edu

## MORE INFORMATION

[cocc.edu/programs/dental-assisting](http://cocc.edu/programs/dental-assisting)

or contact the program director

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Health Careers Center • Room 245

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# The Dental Assistant Career Path

## Required Pre-Req Courses

WR 121 or higher

MTH 95 or higher

COMM 218

CIS 010

CIS 120

HHP 252

PSY 101 or 201 or 215 or 216

## Required Program Courses

DA 110

DA 115

DA 120

DA 125

DA 130

DA 131

DA 134

DA 135

DA 145

DA 150

DA 151

DA 160

DA 181

DA 182

DA 190

DA 191

## Find the path that's right for you

As a dental assistant, you have so many options to grow professionally and expand your career. The biggest challenge you'll have is figuring out where you want to grow. When weighing your options, it is important to keep in mind your state's requirements and available job titles.

## Broadening your role

Once you have that covered, there are two main types of dental assistant career paths you can follow: broadening your role chairside, or shifting your focus in the dental field. As you explore each path's potential, here are some key milestones and educational opportunities to consider.

If you love patients, helping people, and promoting wellness, working chairside might be a good path for you. There is a wide array of duties for chairside dental assistants, and growth opportunities can include everything from earning your [Certification](#) to becoming a dentist, and everything in between.

**Become a Certified Dental Assistant-** Earning your Certification is a wonderful way to gain recognition and increase your earning potential. Check out <https://www.danb.org/> for more information on certifying.

**Become an Expanded Function Dental Assistant-** Expanding the functions you can perform as a dental assistant is a great way to take on more responsibilities and stand out in your office.

**Become a Dental Hygienist-** Advancing your career to include cleaning teeth and advising patients comes with a lot of perks, including increased pay and work hour flexibility. To do this, you will need to earn at least your Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene, and complete licensing examinations specific to your state. For a list of relevant schools, check out the dental hygiene programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) at [ada.org](http://ada.org).

**Become a Dentist-** As the most advanced role within a dental practice, becoming a dentist requires a substantial educational commitment. All dentists have to have a college degree, complete 4 years of dental school, and pass a series of state licensing examinations to get their D.D.S. or D.M.D. Some also choose to continue their professional education by completing a residency program in a dental specialty. If you're interested in learning more about the process, check out [ada.org](http://ada.org).

Information Source: The Dale Foundation, <https://www.dalefoundation.org/For-Dental-Assistants/The-Dental-Assistant-Career-Path>