



## 2007-2008 Career Planning Guide

# DENTAL ASSISTING

### Spokane Community College

**Spokane Community College**  
1810 North Greene Street  
Spokane, Washington 99217-5399  
[www.scc.spokane.edu](http://www.scc.spokane.edu)

**Completion Award:** A.A.S. Degree, Certificate

**Start:** Fall

#### **Tuition and Fees**

**Approximate Quarterly Cost:** (subject to change without notice)

Books	\$ 150-435
Supplies and Equipment	\$ 50
Misc. Fees	\$ 710
* Uniforms \$200; Insurance \$35; Certification Exam \$225; Misc. \$50; Physical Exam and Immunizations \$200	

**PROGRAM WEBSITE:** <http://www.scc.spokane.edu/?alliedh>

### **Program Description**

A one-year program designed to prepare the student for employment as a chairside assistant to the dentist.

Chairside area: record medical and dental history; prepare treatment room; prepare patient for treatment; chart patient information; assist the dentist in general and specialty treatment of patient; sterilize and disinfect dental instruments; expose, process and mount radiographs; teach brushing and flossing; prepare various dental materials; perform expanded functions that are legal in the state of Washington; and order and maintain dental supplies.

Reception area: appoint patients for treatments, maintain a patient recall system, file and maintain patient and office records, complete patient insurance forms and make financial arrangements with patients.

This program is accredited by the American Dental Association. Students who successfully complete the program are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board exam.

### **PROGRAM GOALS--Students who successfully complete the program will be able to:**

- Perform basic chairside assisting techniques in general and specialty practices.
- Identify and utilize instruments, equipment, medications, and dental operator maintaining the asepsis chain.
- Expose, process, and mount dental radiographs.
- Comprehend dental terminology, record patient medical and dental history, and chart pertinent patient information.
- Gain understanding of dental materials, prepare and utilize appropriately.
- Identify and apply the concepts of dental ethics in relationships to the patient, dentist, and other auxiliaries of the dental team.
- Schedule patients for various treatments, maintain a recall system, order and maintain supplies, complete patient insurance forms, make financial arrangements, and utilize basic dental software.
- Perform dental assisting expanded functions allowed in the state of Washington.

### **Career Opportunities**

Although the majority of dental assistants currently serve the profession in private offices, there are also positions in the rapidly growing group practices and in federal agencies, including clinics and hospitals of the Veterans Administration and the U.S. Public Health Service. Dental schools also employ qualified and experienced dental assistants to work with dental students.

Both full-time and part-time employment opportunities for dental assistants are excellent.

## Suggested Course of Study 2007-2008

Consult Adviser/Counselor for Program Planning and Selection of Electives

### DENTAL ASSISTING

A.A.S. Degree, Certificate: SCC

#### Admission Prerequisite/Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED certificate
- Appropriate scores in one of the following: ASSET or Compass

#### Admission Recommendations:

- Computer skills
- Active email account

Each required course for graduation must be completed with a 2.0 grade or better before proceeding to the next quarter.

Professional Curriculum <sup>1</sup>				Liberal Arts Curriculum (optional) <sup>2</sup>			
<b>First Quarter</b>				<b>Credits</b>			
DENT	111	Introduction to Dental Assisting	5	BIOL	101	General Biology	5
DENT	112	Chairside Related Theory	4	CHEM	100	Survey of Chemistry <u>or</u>	
DENT	114	Introduction to Dental Radiology	3	CHEM	161	General Chemistry for Health Sciences	5
DENT	116	Dental Restorative Techniques	3	ENG	109	Speech Composition <u>and</u>	
DENT	118	Dental Anatomy	4	SPCH	101	Introduction to Speech Communication	5
ENG	101	English Composition	<u>5</u>				
			24	PSYCH	101	Introduction to Psychology	5
<b>Second Quarter</b>				<b>Credits</b>			
DENT	121	Intermediate Chairside Assisting	6	SOC	101	Introduction to Sociology	5
DENT	122	Chairside Related Theory	4			Math/Science Elective	5
DENT	124	Advanced Dental Radiology	2			Communication <u>or</u>	
DENT	126	Dental Restorative Techniques	4			Humanities Electives	10
DENT	129	Chairside Clinical Experience	2			Social Science Elective	<u>5</u>
SPCH	102	Interpersonal Communication	<u>5</u>				45
			23	111 credits are required for an A.A.S. degree.			
<b>Third Quarter</b>				<b>Note:</b> All electives must be numbered 100 or above. Students may repeat a dental assisting course once, but it must be repeated within two years.			
DENT	131	Advanced Chairside Assisting	6	<sup>1</sup> The student must maintain a 2.0 grade in all subjects.			
DENT	136	Dental Restorative Techniques	2	<sup>2</sup> Student receives associate in applied science degree in dental assisting. (For an A.A.S. degree in dental assisting, the student must complete the above-designated courses.) All courses must be completed with a 2.0 grade or better.			
DENT	138	Office Management	3				
DENT	139	Chairside Clinical Experience	<u>8</u>				
			19				
66 credits are required for a certificate.							
Clock hours are 1089.							
				<b>Disclaimer:</b> The college cannot guarantee courses will be offered in the quarters indicated. During the period this guide is in circulation, there may be curriculum revisions and program changes. <b>Students are responsible for consulting the appropriate academic unit or adviser for more current and specific information. The information in this guide is subject to change and does not constitute an agreement between the college and the student.</b>			