Course Outline

Dental Assistant

In as little as four months you can be trained and ready to start making money as a Dental Assistant.
Your easy-to-understand lessons take you step by step from the basics of Dental Equipment and Front Office Procedures through the advanced lessons in Restorative Dental Procedures and Periodontics. Here is a preview of what you will learn.

UNIT 1
Welcome to the World of Dentistry
Opportunities and a day in the life of a dentist’s office.
The Role of the Dental Assistant
Discover your role in a dentist’s office and learn about the duties and responsibilities you’ll fulfill as a dental assistant.
Preventive Dentistry and Nutrition
Discover how fluoride and sealants protect teeth. Teach patients how to protect themselves with good eating habits and correct brushing and flossing techniques.
Welcoming the Dental Patient
Here you’ll learn how to greet the patient and gather information to create the patient record. You’ll also learn how to check a patient’s vital signs.
Dental Equipment
Master the dental assistant’s tools of the trade, such as the dental unit, amalgamator and air-water syringe.
Dental Instruments
Bone chisels. Burs. Suction equipment. Learn about the hand and rotary instruments.
Dental Materials
This lesson examines the dental materials used for impressions, poured models, restorations and more!
The Dental Examination
The dental exam: organize operating zones with the clock concept, properly position the patient, dentist and yourself.
Also Included
- Virtual Lab 1 • Procedure Guide 1 • Equipment Guide 1
- HIPAA Supplement • Tooth Anatomical Chart

UNIT 2
Front Office Procedures
How to handle common office responsibilities—from receiving patients and scheduling appointments to maintaining medical records and patient confidentiality.
Disease Transmission
How to prevent disease transmission in the dental office. Review the CDC and OSHA rules and regulations.
Safety in the Dental Office
Maintain an aseptic dental environment with protective equipment, sanitization, sterilizing instruments and more!
Introduction to Oral Anatomy
Exploration of the major muscles, blood supply, lymph nodes and nerve supply of the head and neck.
Dental Anatomy and Terminology
The oral cavity and examination of the anatomy, terminology, and types of teeth, arches and soft tissues.
Charting and Classification
Tutorial on documenting dental conditions. Learn how to record treatment information and develop treatment plans.
Chairside Assisting
Discover how to prepare for a procedure—work alongside the dentist, educate the patients before and after operations.
Dental Pain Management
Alleviate your patients’ pain with topical, local and general anesthetics. Dental pharmacology and procedures dental assistants perform to deliver pain medications.
Also Included
- Virtual Lab 2 • Procedure Guide 2

UNIT 3
Pediatric Dentistry
Here you’ll learn about stages of childhood, needs of disabled patients, and common pediatric procedures so you’ll be able to assist the dentist with kids.
Orthodontics
This lesson will set you straight on orthodontics. Learn the causes and treatments for malocclusions and other orthodontic problems, as well as the procedures involving dental assistants.
Oral Pathology
This lesson covers diseases and disorders of the mouth, including inflammation, lesions, tooth decay and teeth grinding. Also learn how certain diseases—like cancer and HIV/AIDS—and their treatments can affect the mouth.
Medical Emergencies
Be prepared with this lesson on how to assess and respond to medical emergencies like airway obstructions, allergic reactions, diabetic shock and more.
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Here you’ll learn how to prepare patients for surgery, obtain consent, and set up the operatory area for oral and maxillofacial surgery.
Also Included
- Virtual Lab 3
- Procedure Guide 3
- Equipment Guide 2

UNIT 4
Dental Insurance
This lesson provides you with hands-on practice completing insurance claims. Determine patient eligibility and benefits for various dental insurance plans.
Radiology Part I
In this lesson, you’ll learn about the properties of x-rays and radiation safety equipment and the dental assistant’s role in keeping the patient and herself safe.
Radiology Part II
Discover how to create, process, mount and examine dental x-rays using both traditional and digital methods.
Impressions
First impressions are doubly important for dental assistants, who are often responsible for mixing, preparing and taking impressions—or molds—of patients’ teeth. This lesson teaches you how.
Restorative Dental Procedures
Here you’ll learn how to prepare composite resins, cavity liners and cementation materials, as well as assist in various restorative dental procedures.
Also Included
- Virtual Labs 4 & 5 • Equipment Guide 3 • Procedure Guide 4

UNIT 5
Prosthodontics
Discover how to prepare and deliver crowns, bridges and other cast restorations; make and seat temporary crowns; place and remove gingival retraction cords; and more!
Periodontics
Learn to identify the types of diseases that affect the bone and soft tissue of the mouth. This lesson also explains how to assist the dentist on periodontal procedures.
Endodontics
Get to the root of root canals with this overview of the diagnoses and treatments of diseased dental pulp.
The Dental Assistant’s Guide to Law and Ethics
Explore ethical guidelines that will help you gain the reputation of an honest and trustworthy dental professional.
Comprehensive Practicum
Real-world practicum that mirrors the Registered Dental Assistant exam. Show off what you’ve learned about dental science, clinical procedures, office skills and radiography!
Also Included
- Procedure Guide 5
- Equipment Guide 4

Career Starter Guide

A U.S. Career Institute exclusive! The Career Starter Guide will give you step-by-step guidance in getting your first job. You’ll learn how to create the best résumé for yourself...how to write a letter of inquiry...how to perfect your interview skills and much more.

Ensure your success and enrich your program by enrolling today in the Enhanced Version! Receive extra supplements and tools that help jumpstart your career! Contact us at 1-800-528-7907 for more information.

You can enroll right away through our secure website at https://enroll.uscareerinstitute.edu or you can call our toll-free EasySTART line at 1.800.528.7907, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.
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Get Expert Training from U.S. Career Institute...we have over 30 years of experience training busy adults for new moneymaking careers!

Everything you need...books, lessons, learning aids...it’s all included with your program!

You’ll be specially trained to work in the front office checking in patients, along side the dentist doing chairside assisting or behind the scenes making impressions.

U.S. Career Institute programs feature unique, customized learning materials.

- Each Lesson Book and Supplement is written by industry experts, so you get the most current information.
- Lessons focus on real-world skills that you will use in your career.
- Step-by-step format makes learning easier and more rewarding.

When you graduate, you’ll be ready to enter the exciting world of dentistry—with your up-to-date and in-demand career skills.

There is nothing more rewarding than working in a career where your efforts really help others. And as a trained Dental Assistant, you get all the benefits of helping people and the opportunity to make good money. Plus you will have a secure career in the rapidly growing dental field.

*We urge you to start your training today!*