

PROGRAM APPROVAL APPLICATION
NEW or SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE or LOCALLY APPROVED
(This application may not exceed 3 pages)

Fill In Form

Dental Assistant

Proposed Program Title

West Los Angeles College

College

Los Angeles Community College District

District

Fall 2015

Projected Program Start Date

Mark Pracher

Voting Member

Dean, Sponsored Program Development

Title

310-287-4467

Phone Number

PracheM@wlaac.edu

E-mail Address

Goal(s) of Program (Check all that apply):

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Transfer

Other

Type of Program (Check all that apply):

A.S. Degree

A.A. Degree

Certificate of Achievement:

18+ semester (or 27+ quarter) units

12-18 semester (or 18-27 quarter) units

Reason for Approval Request: (Check One)

New Program

Substantial Change

Locally Approved

Program Information

Recommended Taxonomy of Program (TOP) Code 1204.10

Units for Major-Degree 29

Total Units for Degree 63.5 AS degree in Dental Assistant.

Required Units-Certificate 29 unit Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assistant

Written Form

1. Insert the description of the program as it will appear in the catalog.

Mission of the Dental Assistant Program:

The Dental Assistant program provides the students with a high quality education that prepares them to be highly competent, professional, and caring licensed dental assistants.

- ❖ The Dental Assistant Program is designed to prepare students to work successfully as a member of the dental team. Upon completion of the program the student will be prepared and eligible to take both the California State Board Examination as a **Registered Dental Assistant** and the national Certifying Board Examination as a **Certified Dental Assistant**.
- ❖ Dental Assistants can work in a variety of settings such as dental offices of general dentists and dental specialists, dental schools, private and government hospitals and clinics, state and local public health departments.
- ❖ Upon completion of the program the dental assistant student will be prepared to:
 - ❖ Provide comprehensive dental assisting care to individuals from diverse socioeconomic, educational, and cultural backgrounds.
 - ❖ Assist in the clinical setting with dental treatment procedures – using dental instruments and materials, taking and processing dental radiographs, impressions and many other dental procedures within the scope of dental assisting practice in the state of California.
 - ❖ Perform front office duties including scheduling appointments, insurance and/or financial aspects of the dental practice and using dental management software systems.
 - ❖ Assume responsibility for prevention of disease transmission in the work environment.
 - ❖ Perform the dental assisting functions according to state regulations in a safe and ethical manner.
 - ❖ Communicate with patients, other health professionals, dental suppliers, business contacts and insurance companies
- ❖ The Dental Assistant curriculum is planned in sequence. Satisfactory completion of all courses with a grade of “C” or better in a given semester is required before the student may continue to the second semester of the Dental Assistant Program. All required courses in each semester are co-requisites and prerequisites for the subsequent semester. Students must satisfactorily complete all of the courses in the Dental Assistant Program according to the State of California Dental Practice Act guidelines for curriculum.
- ❖ Upon completion of the program students will earn a Certificate of Achievement.
- ❖ Students who wish to also obtain an Associate Degree in Dental Assisting may do so by completing all major requirements and general education courses (Plan B). It is recommended that students consult with the Counseling Office to develop a Student Educational Plan.

NOTE: In order to be admitted into the Dental Assistant Program, students must submit an application for admission directly to the Allied Health Division. For additional information, application procedures, and entry requirements please contact a college counselor or call (310) 287-4464 or visit the West Los Angeles College website Allied Health Division Dental Assistant Program at www.wlac.edu/alliedhealth

2. Provide a brief rationale for the program.

According to O*NET, Dental Assisting is a new and emerging occupation in a high growth industry. It is an occupation with a bright outlook. The Dental Assisting program will provide students:

- entry level employment opportunities in the dental field,
- a ladder opportunity to a dental hygiene program,
- an industry-recognized **state certification for radiology safety, coronal polish, pit and fissure sealants, and infection control** upon completing each course/session in the program, and
- internship opportunities at UCLA, Veterans Affairs facilities, and MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity) Clinic.
- ❖ The college’s dental careers **advisory board members, local dentists, and affiliated clinical sites have stated a need for highly qualified dental assistants** in the West Los Angeles area.
- ❖ The program will offer a certificate of achievement in Dental Assisting and/or an AS degree in Dental Assisting.
- ❖ Meets community employment needs based on the number of job offerings in the local community and employment websites.
- ❖ The program will maximize college resources by using the existing Dental Hygiene program classrooms, labs, equipment, and instruments in the college’s fully equipped dental clinic instructional facility.
- ❖ The closest community college dental assistant program is 22-miles from West and only three community college programs in Los Angeles County, none with a reach into West Los Angeles.

3. List all courses required for program completion, including core requirements, restricted electives and prerequisites.

Courses	Course No.	Course Title	Units
<u>Prerequisites</u>			
English	28	Intermediate Reading and Composition	3
Math	115	Elementary Algebra	5
<u>Major</u>			
Dental Assistant	001	Orientation to Dental Assisting	2
Dental Assistant	005	Pre-clinical Chair-side Assisting	5
Dental Assistant	006	Dental Sciences for the Dental Assistant	2
Dental Assistant	008	Introduction to Dental Radiology	3
Dental Assistant	007	Infection Control for the Dental Setting	1
Dental Assistant	003	DA Seminar	1

Dental Assistant	009	Medical Emergencies	2
Dental Assistant	010	Intermediate Chairside Assistant	2
Dental Assistant	012	Dental Assisting Clinical Science	3
Dental Assistant	013	Practice Management	3
Dental Assistant	015	Advance Chairside Assisting	5
<i>Total units for major and Certificate = 29 units</i>			
<u>Additional units for Dental Assistant AS Degree</u>			
Healthcare Core Curriculum: 7.5 units			
Health Occupations	065	Fundamentals for Health Care Professionals	2.5
Health Occupations	064	Cultural and Legal Topics for Health Care Professionals	1
		Skill Set for the Health Care Professional	
Health Occupations	062	Basic Medical Language, Pathophysiology and Pharmacy for the	2
Health Occupations	063	Healthcare Professional	2
<u>Plan B: AS Degree GE requirements, 18 units</u>			
Natural Science		Choose from approved list	3
Social and Behavioral Science		Choose from approved list	3
Humanities		Choose from approved list	3
Language and Rationality		Choose from approved list	6
Kinesiology		Health or Dental Assistant Clinical Sciences	1
Health or Dental Assistant	11 or 012		3

4. Summarize the Labor Market Information and employment outlook (including citation of the source of the data) for students exiting the program.

EDD LMI data indicates that between 2012-2022 in California there will be an increase in employment of 15.5% for dental assistants, with 1,640 annual average job openings statewide and 393 in Los Angeles County. The current dental assistant median wage is \$18/hour. O*Net shows a projected growth of 22% nationwide and 16% in California and this profession is considered to have a bright outlook. EMSI shows an 8.9% increase in the region in the number of Dental Assistant jobs (in 2013 = 10,852 jobs; in 2020 = 11,821 jobs). EMSI also shows that the job posting intensity for dental assistants is 10-to-1 meaning that **companies are trying harder to hire for this position**. EMSI data also indicate that from January 2013 to the present, there have been an average of more than 500 dental assistant hires in each month in Los Angeles County.

5. List similar programs at other colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County Region which may be adversely impacted. (Push Enter after each entry to begin a new line)

College	Program	Who you Contacted	Outcome of Contact
Pasadena City College	Dental Assisting	Lori Gagliardi	Believes we need more accredited Dental Assistant Programs in the area. Will support if pursue accreditation.
Citrus College	Dental Assisting	Claudia Pohl	Emailed and called. Excited about the program and figuring out who at Citrus should respond.
Cerritos College	Dental Assisting	Donna Wedell	Emailed and called.
Cypress College	Dental Assisting	Elizabeth Pacheco	Emails exchanged; supportive of program.
Orange Coast College	Dental Assisting	Joy Louise Myers	Emailed and called.

The voting members for Pasadena, Citrus, Cypress, Cerritos, and Orange Coast were emailed the application at the emails listed on the LAOCRC web site asking for their college's support for the application.

6. Include any other information you would like to share.

This program was developed over the last 3 years, with skills competencies directly tied to industry and a robust syllabus. We received approval from the Dental Board of California to award certificates for Pit and Fissure Sealants, Coronal Polish, Infection Control, and Radiation Safety ensuring graduates are highly trained and have in-demand credentials. Graduates will be prepared to pass the state Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) and the national Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) licensing exams. The Dental Assistant program will be **a ladder program to West's existing Dental Hygiene program**, with students successfully completing DA 007 and 008 offered the opportunity to challenge Dental Hygiene 112 (Radiology – Introduction to Radiation Safety) and Dental Hygiene 109 (Infection Control in Dentistry) through credit-by-exam. Completion of the program will enable students who are interested and accepted into the Dental Hygiene program to work as dental assistants while completing the Dental Hygiene program. Both Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene will share the use of the college's state-of-the-art instructional dental clinic. The twenty-three operatory clinic allows full service dentistry and is equipped with six digital/conventional radiology operatories, digital panoramic radiology equipment, eight radiology mannequins (both adult and child dentition), digital charting, high and low speed hand piece and vacuum systems, and a sterilization facility. Existing partnerships with UCLA School of Dentistry, Veterans Affairs Administration, and Meeting Each Need with Dignity (MEND) non-profit clinics have agreed to student internships in their facilities. Local dentists on the advisory board have indicated a **need for higher quality dental assistants in the West Los Angeles area**.