

CURRICULUM STANDARD

Effective Term
Fall 1997
[1997*03]

Curriculum Program Title

Dental Assisting (Diploma)

Code

D45240

Concentration

(not applicable)

Curriculum Description

The Dental Assisting curriculum prepares individuals to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatment and to function as integral members of the dental team while performing chairside and related office and laboratory procedures.

Course work includes instruction in general studies, biomedical sciences, dental sciences, clinical sciences, and clinical practice. A combination of lecture, laboratory, and clinical experiences provide students with knowledge in infection/hazard control, radiography, dental materials, preventive dentistry, and clinical procedures.

Graduates may be eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become Certified Dental Assistants. As a Dental Assistant II, defined by the Dental Laws of North Carolina, graduates work in dental offices and other related areas.

*Curriculum Requirements**

- I. General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours including at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Degree programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education; 3 semester hours must be in communications. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. (*See second page for additional information.*)
- III. Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the Combined Course Library and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
Total Semester Hours Credit in Program	64-76	36-48	12-18

*Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.

Major Hours

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration** (*if applicable*). A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work experience, including cooperative education, practicums, and internships, may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

Dental Assisting (Diploma) D45240

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum Major Hours Required	49 SHC	30 SHC	12 SHC
A. CORE Required Courses: DEN 101 Preclinical Procedures 7 SHC DEN 102 Dental Materials 5 SHC DEN 103 Dental Sciences 2 SHC DEN 104 Dental Health Education 3 SHC DEN 105 Practice Management 2 SHC DEN 106 Clinical Practice I 5 SHC DEN 107 Clinical Practice II 5 SHC DEN 111 Infection/Hazard Control 2 SHC DEN 112 Dental Radiography 3 SHC Required Subject Areas: Dental Anatomy. Select one: DEN 100 Basic Orofacial Anatomy 2 SHC DEN 110 Orofacial Anatomy 3 SHC		36-37 SHC	
B. CONCENTRATION (<i>Not applicable</i>)			
C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i> BIO, CIS, COE, CSC, DEN, ENG, HSC, PSY, and SOC <i>Foreign language courses (including ASL) that are not designated as approved other major hours may be included in all programs up to a maximum of 3 semester hours of credit.</i>			