

Dental Assisting

The dental assistant works as a valued member of the dental health team and assists the dentist in performing professional duties in the operatory, laboratory, and business office. The student becomes competent in chairside assisting, laboratory procedures, x-ray techniques, and in the business related functions of the dental office/clinic.

The program offers a certificate in dental assisting and an associate of science degree with a major in dental assisting. The certificate program requires 11 credit hours of prerequisite course work prior to the one academic year (two semesters) of the program. Approximately 1,100 hours of lecture, laboratory, and clinical instruction are included in the dental assisting courses. A second year of study is available which enables students to earn an associate of science with a major in dental assisting. Students who are enrolled in the program must achieve a grade of C or better in all courses which directly pertain to their major. An overall grade point average of 2.0 or better is required for graduation from the program.

Upon successful completion of the program, the student receives a Certificate in Dental Assisting which qualifies the student to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board Certification Examination. The dental assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental

Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. The address of the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association is 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678, phone 800/621-8099.

Admission Requirements for Dental Assisting

Students seeking admission to the program must apply for admission to the University before making separate application to the dental assisting program. Students who have a high school diploma or its equivalent, or who are students at any accredited college or university, are eligible to apply for admission. Transfer students will be considered on the basis of review of the individual's record and transcripts. Students meeting academic requirements also must be in good health, eligible for dental assisting certification, and capable of performing clinical practice requirements.

Admission criteria

- Graduation from an accredited high school college preparatory curriculum with a grade point average of 2.5 or above (4.0 system) or a GED;
- high school courses that include English, mathematics, science, social studies or foreign language, and keyboarding. Chemistry and biology are strongly recommended;
- submission of SAT or ACT scores; SAT of 700 or better; ACT of 15 or better; and
- completed dental assisting application accompanied by an official high school transcript and official college/university transcript if applicable.
- Completion of prerequisite courses
- College grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale

Students who do not meet these criteria may ask for admission eligibility re-evaluation following successful completion of science and other specified courses required for the Dental Assisting Program. Students currently enrolled in an accredited college or university other than the University of Southern Indiana must submit an official transcript of grades with their application.

Application forms for the dental assisting program may be obtained from the College of Nursing and Health Professions or via the Internet by going to the dental assisting home page under admission information, health.usi.edu/acadprog/dentasst/dentasst.htm. The completed form must be submitted to the dental assisting program by March 1 of the year the student wishes to enter. However, due to the limited enrollment in this

program, applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. A complete set of official high school transcripts and college/university transcripts, if applicable, must be submitted to the Office of Admission as part of the admissions procedure, and a separate official set of transcripts must be submitted with the dental assisting application.

Applicants are required to visit a dental office which employs a dental assistant and observe the functions and responsibilities of a practicing dental assistant for a period of eight hours. A statement verifying this observation, signed by the dental assistant or dentist, is to be submitted along with other supporting documents by the deadline date.

Equivalency Program

Currently employed non-certified dental assistants who wish to work for certification should contact the director of the dental assisting program. A limited number of special students can be accepted into the program and attend on a part-time basis. Many of the courses required may be completed by taking a comprehensive oral, written, and practical examination on a credit-by-examination basis. Applicants must have a minimum of two years full-time practical experience and must complete the program within five years of starting.

Dental Assisting Curriculum

Prerequisite Courses

ENG 101	Rhetoric & Composition I	3
PSY 201	Intro to Psychology	3
CMST 101	Intro to Public Speaking	3
HP 115	Medical Terminology	2

First Semester

DTHY 208	Dental Materials	3
DTHY 203	Dental Radiology	3
DTHY 214	Oral Anatomy and Embryology	3
DTAS 122	Clinical Science I	5
DTAS 156	Human Systems I	3
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Second Semester

DTAS 111	Oral Pathology	1
DTAS 158	Practice Management Ethics and Jurisprudence	3
DTAS 166	Human Systems II	3
DTAS 175	Preventive Dentistry	2
DTAS 181	Clinical Science II	5
DTAS 183	Clinical Sci Applications	3
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Descriptions for DTHY courses are found in the dental hygiene list of course descriptions.

Associate of Science Degree

The associate of science degree is available to program graduates who complete a second academic year. A minimum of 65 credit hours is required.

Second Year**Fall Semester**

Ethics*, The Arts*, or Western Culture I*	3
Science* or Mathematics*	3
Indiv Develop/Social Behavior*	3
General Elective	1
	10

Spring Semester

Ethics*, The Arts*, or Western Culture II*	3
Science* or Mathematics	3
Indiv Develop/Social Behavior*	3
General Elective	1
	10

*See *USI Bulletin* for appropriate University Core Curriculum courses.

Course Descriptions

Following certain course descriptions are the designations: F, Sp, Su. These indicate the semesters fall, spring, summer in which the course is normally offered and are intended as an aid to students planning their programs of study.

DTAS courses have the following prereq: Admission to the Dental Assisting Program or approval by program director of Dental Assisting.

111 Oral Pathology (1) This course focuses on the general pathological conditions of the oral cavity with implications for the dental assistant. Sp

122 Clinical Science I (5) This course introduces the student to chair-side dental assisting procedures with an emphasis on instrument identification and care, tray set-ups, transfer of instruments, and the role of the dental assistant in operative procedures. Clinical asepsis is emphasized and microbiological theories of disease and disease transmission are integrated and applied into course content. Includes student application in extramural settings. F

156 Human Systems I (3) This course presents the structure and function of body systems, their pathologies and emergencies, along with preventions and treatments. F

158 Practice Management, Ethics, and Jurisprudence (3) This course provides comprehensive consideration of dental ethics, jurisprudence, office procedures, and techniques for seeking employment. The student is prepared to assume the role of the business assistant, including receptionist duties, correspondence, computer usage, and management of financial accounts. Sp

166 Human Systems II (3) Structure and function of the remaining body systems, their related pathologies and emergencies, along with preventions and treatments are highlighted in this class. The digestive system with special emphasis on human nutrition and diet therapy is a special content area in Human Systems II. Course prerequisites include Medical Terminology and Human Systems I or faculty permission. Sp

175 Preventive Dentistry (2) This course surveys dental diseases and provides practical methods of preventing their occurrence, utilizing plaque control, fluoride therapy, dietary control, pit and fissure sealants, and patient education. Sp

181 Clinical Science II (5) This clinical course prepares the student to assume the role of the dental assistant in the private office. Includes extramural clinical rotations. Sp

183 Clinical Science Applications (3) This course introduces the theories and techniques of chairside assisting in the dental specialties. Also includes the manipulation and uses of dental materials and the expo-

sure, processing, and mounting of dental radiographs utilized in the dental specialties. Sp

Dental Hygiene

Dental hygiene involves the use of a process of care to assess oral health status, develop a dental hygiene diagnosis, and plan and implement preventive and therapeutic services to achieve optimum oral health. This process of care is utilized to support the oral health status of individuals in a variety of clinical settings, and groups in community education and health care settings.

Dental hygiene has evolved into a multifaceted profession offering opportunities in a variety of areas. Career opportunities for the licensed dental hygienist are available in dental clinics and practices, administrative and managerial health care, education, research, and public health. The dental hygiene program at the University of Southern Indiana provides a curriculum which includes didactic courses, laboratory and clinical experiences, and community oral health education experiences. This diversity prepares graduates to deliver oral health care services and education in a variety of practice settings.

The Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene requires two years of prerequisite courses and two academic years of professional education courses. Prerequisite courses may be taken at any accredited college or university. Courses completed at another university must be comparable to those offered by USI and must transfer for credit. Dental hygiene courses taken while enrolled in the University of Southern Indiana dental assisting program must be completed within three years of entering the dental hygiene program. A grade of C or better is required in all courses to be applied to the dental hygiene degree. An overall grade point average of 2.5 is required for graduation from the program.

Prerequisite courses cannot be taken on pass/fail option. All chemistry, biology, health professions, nutrition, and math prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the spring semester in the year the student desires admission to the program. The remainder of the prerequisite courses must be completed prior to beginning the dental hygiene professional curriculum.

Students seeking admission to the dental hygiene program must also be accepted for admission to USI. Admission to the University and completion of the prerequisite courses does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program. Admission into the dental hygiene program is limited to 24 students each academic