

Program Level Outcomes
Dental Assisting 2015

Accreditation requirements

The Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana has 5 dental assisting programs. They are located in: Anderson, Columbus, Kokomo, Lafayette and South Bend. All 5 programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, CODA, of the American Dental Association. CODA accreditation is maintained as follows:

- Actively update the dental assisting curriculum based upon current accreditation standards.
- Maintain a budget that allows the program to meet all aspects of student learning including but not limited to the classroom and laboratory.
- Maintain a facility that allows the program to meet all aspects of student learning including but not limited to the laboratory and clinic facilities.
- Employ credentialed and highly motivated faculty that meet CODA and college standards.
 - Certified dental assistants, licensed dental hygienists and/or licensed dentists
 - Minimum of 2 years clinical experience
 - Valid radiography license
 - Baccalaureate degree for all didactic courses
 - Program administrator with a full-time commitment to the program
- Write a self-study based on CODA guidelines to submit at 7 year reaccreditation site-visit
 - Complete the site-visit with no recommendations
 - Obtain the status of accredited without reporting as quickly as possible after the site-visit report is received should there be any recommendations related to the site-visit.
- Minimize attrition rates by accepting academically sound candidates
- Provide additional resources for struggling students
- Emphasize the importance of life-long learning

Exams for licensure or certification

- The Dental Assisting National Board, DANB, is the recognized certification exams in the State of Indiana. There are 3 DANB exams, Infection Control (ICE), Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) and General Chairside (GCE). Completion of all 3 exams will result in granting the credential Certified Dental Assistant (CDA).
- The State of Indiana only requires that the RHS exam be completed to satisfy state law. The cost of the RHS exam is part of each dental assisting student's tuition.
- Students are highly encouraged to take all 3 exams with the TC program. All 3 exams, resulting in a CDA, are required as part of the AAS degree.

Standards of associated professions

- Dental Hygiene: Associates degree, national board, regional board, state license
- Dentist: Baccalaureate degree, DDS or DMD, national board, regional board, state license

The six learning outcomes associated with the Statewide Transfer General Education Core

- Written language
 - The dental assisting graduate will show competence in writing through the following:
 - Prerequisite ENGL 111
 - Various assignments within the dental assisting curriculum that include accurate writing skills:
 - Research papers
 - Written assignments
 - Discussion boards
 - SOAP notes
 - Progress notes
- Speaking and listening
 - The dental assisting graduate will show competence in speaking and listen through the following:
 - Prerequisite COMM 101 or 102
 - Various presentations given throughout the dental assisting curriculum
 - Oral presentations
 - Community service opportunities
 - Mock interviews
- Quantitative reasoning
 - Students seeking the TC and AAS will use quantitative reasoning skill, specifically geometric calculations in placing digital sensors, phosphor plates and dental film and correctly angling the x-ray tube head for a high quality radiographic image.
 - Students seeking the TC and AAS will use quantitative reasoning skills, specifically mathematics, during pharmacology when discussing medication dosages.
 - Students seeking the AAS with take MATH 123
- Scientific ways of knowing
 - Students seeking the TC and AAS will use scientific ways of knowing skills in the following courses;
 - DENT 102 Dental Materials I
 - DENT 115 Preclinical Practice I, specifically microbiology and aseptic technique
 - DENT 116 Pharmacology and office emergencies
 - DENT 118 Dental Radiography, specifically radiation physics and radiation biology
 - DENT 124 Dental Anatomy, specifically head and neck anatomy
 - DENT 129 Dental Materials II
 - Students seeking the AAS will take APHY 101 and 102
- Social and behavioral ways of knowing
 - Students seeking the TC and AAS degree will learn the psychology of patient at the familiarity level

- Students seeking the AAS degree will take PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology
- Humanistic and artistic ways of knowing
 - Students will learn about cultural diversity in the following courses:
 - DENT 115 Preclinical Practice I
 - DENT 117 Practice Management
 - DENT 125 Preclinical Practice II

Expressed employer needs

- After reviewing the needs of dentists in the state of Indiana, the following requirements for dental assistants becomes evident:
 - Radiation Health and Safety License
 - Expanded Function Certificate
 - Coronal Polish Certificate
 - Topical Application of Anti-carries medicaments
 - Experience with dental practice software

Course-level student learning outcomes

At the end of the Ivy Tech Community College Dental Assisting Program, graduates will be able to complete the following:

- Sit for and pass the Dental Assisting National Board Radiation Health and Safety Exam
- Sit for and pass the Dental Assisting National Board Infection Control Exam
- Sit for and pass the Dental Assisting National Board General Chairside Exam
- Successfully complete all 3 exams resulting in the credential Certified Dental Assistant
- Obtain an x-ray license in the State of Indiana
- Successfully apply for and obtain gainful employment
- Apply lifelong learning skills in order to remain current with trends within the profession
- Apply lifelong learning skills in order to maintain the CDA credential
- Participate regularly in community service activities
- Join and participate in the professional association

