DENTAL ASSISTING (DAC)

DAC 101. Dental Assisting. 3 Credits.
This course provides an introduction to organized dentistry and the fundamentals of dental practice. The roles and qualifications of dental health care members according to the state dental practice act, an exploration of the dental specialties and assisting a dentist chairside will be the focus of the instruction. A comprehensive review of the skill sets needed for competency in four and six handed dentistry will include providing instrument transfer, a clear operating field through proper lip and tongue retraction, use of high volume evacuation and properly adjusting the light. Identification and knowledge of instrument use as each relate to a dental procedure will be a foundation for anticipatory chairside abilities. Laboratory and clinical sessions will also provide instruction and practice in supportive techniques such as placement of the rubber dam and matrix bands, charting and recording an oral exam, and sterilization and aseptic techniques. Exposure control, OSHA regulations, and hazard control recommendations will be introduced and reinforced throughout the course. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification, ENG 101, MAT 126 and BIO 152 or BIO 199 and BIO 204 with a C+ or higher. Fall.

DAC 102. Dental Science I. 4 Credits.
This course will introduce the student to oral embryology and histology, anatomy of the head and neck with a focus on oral anatomy, tooth morphology, and individual tooth identifications. The second half of the course will focus on microbiology, disease transmission and infection control. Learning opportunities will be offered in the form of lecture and demonstration, with the aid of anatomical models and extracted teeth so that the student will be prepared to identify individual structures of the mouth in preparation of lab and clinical experience. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification, ENG 101, MAT 126 and BIO 152 or BIO 199 and BIO 204 with a C+ or higher. Fall.

DAC 104. Practice Management. 2 Credits.
This course provides an introduction to basic practice management skills, business operating systems and financial management in a dental office. The components of the business operating system of an office will be introduced as will the skills needed in the financial management of an office. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification, DAC 101, DAC 102. Spring.

DAC 105. Dental Science II. 4 Credits.
This course will introduce oral pathology including diseases, lesions, conditions and disorders of the oral cavity followed by an investigation of caries and periodontal disease and the etiology, risk assessment and preventive measures for them. Pharmacology and the Management of Emergencies will be covered in the later part of the course. The student is provided with information and practice opportunities in dental and medical emergencies. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification, DAC 102. Spring.

DAC 110. Prevention. 3 Credits.
This course provides an introduction to Preventive Dentistry. The components of a comprehensive preventive program will include knowledge and theory of the roles nutrition, patient education, plaque control therapy, fluoride therapy and sealants have in preventive dentistry. Theory and practice are combined in such a way that the student is afforded the opportunity to learn didactic material, practice and manipulate on topical mannequins and then synthesize this learning by using peer partners. The student will be required to state the rationale and demonstrate proper technique for each preventive dental skill. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification, DAC 101, DAC 102. Spring.

DAC 115. Clinical Rotation. 7 Credits.
This course is integral for the student dental assistant to develop the functions introduced in the curriculum from a level of minimal competence to one of optimum proficiency. During this immersion experience students will rotate through two dental practices actively assisting and participating in patient care. A daily record of professional activities, including each clinical procedure assisted in and performed, and supportive lab and office procedures will be kept and provided for the course instructor to read and respond to. Seminars will be conducted weekly with a focus and discussion on an assigned area, with a case base presentations format. Prerequisites: Current CPR certification; DAC 101, DAC 102, DHY 106, DAC 104, DHY 103, DAC 105 and DAC 110. Summer.