



# Dental Assisting

Department: Allied Health

Degree: Diploma

Entry time: Fall, Spring

Length: 1 year (3 semesters, including 1 summer)

- Kirkwood is one of the few colleges in the country that has a **Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Technology** program.
- The program boasts consistent pass rates that meet and **exceed the national average**.
- Those in the program have the chance to **attend state and local professional association meetings**.
- Students will receive **more clinical hours of experience than is required** from accreditation.
- The program features **great, caring faculty** in a progressive institution that allows for use of creative talent.
- The program stays on the **cutting edge** with state-of-the-art equipment.
- A **modern lab space** simulates the exact environment students will be in after graduating.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to [www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie](http://www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie) for more details.

## Program Description

Dental assistants help the dentist at chairside and also perform functions such as polishing teeth, taking X-rays, mixing materials, and sterilizing instruments. Some assistants also manage the office and patient accounts, schedule appointments, and purchase supplies.

Students will gain classroom, laboratory, and hands-on experience by working with patients at the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City and in private dental offices.

## Career Opportunities

Private dental office/Clinics  
Research  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Hospitals  
Sales and insurance claims  
Specialty practices such as orthodontics or children's dentistry

## Sample Classes

Dental Materials  
Fundamentals of Dentistry  
Dental Terminology  
Dental Anatomy  
Professionals in Health  
Health Skills  
Oral Pathology for Dental Assisting  
Dental Assisting Clinic  
Specialty Dentistry  
Head and Neck Anatomy  
Preventive Dentistry  
Dental Radiography  
Dental Office Procedures  
Dental Nutrition

## A.A.S. Option

An A.A.S. in Dental Assisting is available to students upon completion of additional coursework.

## Dental Assisting A.A.S.

2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

## Accreditation

The Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Technology programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <https://www.ada.org/en/coda>.

## Scholarships

Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

Kirkwood Community College shall not engage in nor allow unlawful discrimination against individuals involved in its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age, disability, or actual or potential parental, family, or marital status. If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with the policy, please contact the Vice President of Human Resources at Kirkwood Community College, 313 Kirkwood Hall, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, Telephone: 319-398-5572, Email: [equity@kirkwood.edu](mailto:equity@kirkwood.edu), or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison St., Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone: 312-730-1560, Fax: 312-730-1576, Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov).