

Health Programs

Dental Assistant

10-month Certificate Program

Fee Category: VII

The Program

This program, approved by the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia (CDSBC) and accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC), is designed to provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be a member of the dental team, providing care, support and services for individuals of all ages. Upon successful completion of the program students will be granted a certificate. Students must then write an National Board exam which, combined with the certificate, makes them eligible to apply for registration and licensure with the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. as a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA - Level II).

A free information session for prospective students is usually held in February. Check with the Advising Centre for more details, 250-740-6410, or visit viu.ca/infosessions. Attendance at an Information Session is highly recommended.

Career Opportunities

Graduates will work under the supervision of a dentist and may find employment in various settings including general and specialty dental practices, hospital dental clinics, community health agencies, and educational institutions. Most Certified Dental Assistants are employed in private general practice.

Following graduation, obtaining a license from CDSBC to practice in B.C. will require a criminal record check, a CPR level C certificate, successful completion of the NDAEB national board exam, and a registration and licensing fee. Renewal of annual licensure requires all dental assistants to obtain continuing education credits. Details will be provided prior to graduation.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with min. "C" grade, or equivalent.
- Biology 12 with min. "C" grade, or equivalent.
- Good personal health; 20-20 vision with correction is required.

Apply for Admission Online or Print Application Form

Recommendations for Admission

- Chemistry 11 or 12.
- Basic computer skills.

- Basic Dental Terminology (available at Vancouver Island University).

Notes on Admission

- Students with back problems or an inability to work freely in confined spaces may have difficulty meeting the physical demands of this profession.
- Skin allergies may be adversely affected by some dental materials.
- A criminal conviction may interfere with eligibility for licensure.
- Basic Dental Terminology may be offered through VIU's Centre for Continuing Studies.
- A completed Immunization Requirements Form is required for the **first day** of classes. The health immunization form must be signed by the public health nurse.
- An interview may be required.
- Proof of W.H.M.I.S. training is required for the **first day** of classes (effective September 2006).

Recommended Personal Characteristics

Before applying for this program, students should learn as much as possible about this career. We encourage students to spend at least one day in a dental office observing the CDA.

Students with the following characteristics can anticipate success in the program and in their future career as a CDA:

- sensitivity to the needs of others;
- good manual dexterity to enable safe, skillful use of instruments while working in the mouth;
- a mature, positive self-image with high standards of personal and professional integrity;
- ability to move freely in confined spaces;
- ability to speak confidently with people of all ages;
- ability to pay close attention to detail over considerable periods of time;
- ability to work quickly with accuracy and neatness;
- ability to manage time effectively and handle responsibility;
- excellent oral and personal hygiene;
- willingness to participate in a team environment being respectful of the ways in which others organize and execute their work.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September, and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Special Expenses

The cost of books and print materials is approximately \$570; uniform(s) for the clinical component, duty shoes, and other supplies will cost approximately \$615. Students are advised not to purchase uniforms and supplies until after the first day of class orientation. Students are required to pay for travel expenses during the practicum, and they may wish to travel to attend a Dental Conference. A registration and licensure fee of approximately \$400 paid to the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. will be required prior to employment. Students must write the National Dental Assistant Board examination at an additional cost of approximately \$350.

All fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Program Outline

Semester 1 (*September - December*)

- DENA 110T (Professionalism I)
- DENA 120T (Applied Dental Sciences I)
- DENA 130T (Clinical Support Theory I)
- DENA 140T (Preventive Approaches to Dental Health I)
- DENA 150T (Dental Assisting Practice I)
- DENA 171T (Practicum I)

Semester 2 (*January - June*)

- DENA 111T (Professionalism II)
- DENA 121T (Applied Dental Sciences II)
- DENA 131T (Clinical Support Theory II)
- DENA 141T (Preventive Approaches to Dental Health II)
- DENA 151T (Dental Assisting Practice II)
- DENA 161T (Dental Office Management)
- DENA 172T (Practicum II)
- DENA 173T (Practicum III)

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