

Dental Assistant Training Program
Sponsored By the Washington Association for Community Health

Dental Assistant Training Program FAQs

Benefits:

What are the benefits for me as an employer?

- The Dental Assistant Training Program is designed to train new employees who do not have prior dental knowledge. It structures the training of essential dental assisting skills so that staff can become didactically trained while working with you.
- The Dental Assistant Training Program is self-paced and online. It gives trainees ability to flexibly learn the skills when you need them, as well as structures course completion in about one year.
- You can select new employees from the local community who already know your patient population, or you can select trainees with certain skills (e.g. bilingual in a particular language) that are not available amongst current staff.
- Employers get to tailor the training of Dental Assistants, no re-training necessary.
- There is a 10-week trial period, so you can be sure that the Dental Assistant is a good fit with your organization.

What are the benefits to the trainee?

- No need to travel or move to another area to attend a training program.
- No cost to the trainee for marketable dental skills
- Can work full time while completing the program.
- A broad skill set that ensures the Dental Assistant is a valued and trained member of the care team.
- There's no need to travel or attend in-person classes to develop their dental assisting skills.
- The teacher guided structure allows beginners to dental assisting to start with knowledge fundamentals and get support as they learn online.

About the course:

Are there due dates in the course? Do modules open and close?

- Yes, modules are due weekly.
- However, the course is structured to be self-paced, and all topics are available to the trainee from the start. Trainees are welcome to jump to a topic, or revisit topics at any time for review.

Is there a minimum passing grade or a final exam required to pass?

- Yes. The course focuses on building skills and practical knowledge. Skill competency is demonstrated in clinic by the quality of the trainee's work and their increasing value as a dental assistant, as well as a cumulative online grade of 70% in all modules and tests.



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- Intermittent quizzes produce a grade that allows a trainee to gauge their proficiency in each topic, the minimum score a trainee must earn is 70% to pass the course.

How many times can a trainee retake a quiz?

- There is no limit to the number of times a trainee can take any quiz or complete any of the interactive learning activities. Learning Review quizzes draw from extensive question banks, providing a unique question set every time a trainee takes a quiz.

Will completion of the course qualify trainees to sit for a certification exam if Washington requires one in the future?

- No. Certification preparation courses must meet specific requirements for trainees to be eligible for an exam upon course completion. This course is focused on flexible skill mastery and is not structured to meet the requirements of any certifying body.

Will completion of the course qualify trainees for college credit?

- No. There is no college credit associated with the course.

Will trainees be required to attend in-person trainings?

- No. No in-person trainings are required or offered as part of this course.

Is there an instructor that will monitor trainee progress, grade assignments, or offer learning support?

- Yes. The structure of the course is set up to encourage trainee-guided learning and topic exploration with the guidance and direct support of an instructor.
- An in-clinic mentor is valuable to the development of a trainee's dental assisting skills, if available.
- Assignments in the course provide immediate trainee feedback and are also graded by an instructor.

How does the employer know a trainee is using the course?

- Employers are encouraged to designate a learning mentor to monitor trainee progress and provide clinical training.

Training Cost:

How much does the course cost?

- First cohort: 30% Discounted price of \$1250/student
- \$1800/student

Will the trainees need a textbook or study guide?

- Yes. The text *Modern Dental Assisting, 12th edition* by Bird and Robinson is required to use the course. The textbook is included in the course fee. The study guide associated with the course is not required, but trainees may find it helpful.



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Is there reimbursement if a trainee drops the course or is let go from their employer?

- Yes. If a trainee drops the course or is let go within the 14 days/2 work weeks, the employer will receive 100% reimbursement of tuition. If it is weeks 3-10 the employer will receive 67% reimbursement (\$1,206), and any time after week 10 tuition will not be refunded.

If a trainee has trouble accessing the course, what can they do?

- Trainees receive full technical support for the duration of their enrollment. Details on how to reach out for help are included in the course's orientation.

We are interested in the DA training program what is your cohort schedule for 2022?

- We will host 2 cohorts May & November starts. Enrollment opening will be emailed to all interested employers.



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