



Explore a Career as a **DENTAL ASSISTANT!**

What do Dental Assistants do?

Dental assistants work with dentists in the delivery of quality oral healthcare and are valuable members of the dental care team. Dental assistants perform many tasks, ranging from patient care and taking x-rays to recordkeeping and scheduling appointments. Their duties are among the most comprehensive and varied in the dental office. Dental assistants work under the supervision of dentists and work closely with dental hygienists in their day-to-day activities. If you have strong communication skills, enjoy working with your hands as well as your mind and want a career with responsibility, dental assisting is for you.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have many opportunities for employment as a dental assistant, but first you will need to earn a certificate or an associate degree. Accredited programs include classroom and laboratory work in which students learn about teeth, gums, jaws and other areas that may require dental work. These programs also include supervised practical experience.

As a Dental Assistant you will:

- Help dentists by handing them instruments during procedures
- Instruct patients in proper dental hygiene
- Prepare the work area for patient treatment by setting out instruments and materials
- Process x-rays and complete lab tasks, under the direction of a dentist
- Schedule patient appointments
- Sterilize dental instruments
- Work with patients to make them comfortable in the dental chair and to prepare them for treatments

Dental Assistants are in demand in Kankakee County!

Kankakee County employment of dental assistants is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for dental assistants as growing faster than average.

Dental Assistant

Training Providers

The following certified training providers offer programs and certifications to train for a career as a dental assistant:

- College of DuPage
- Moraine Valley Community College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire dental assistants in Kankakee County, including:

- Endodontic offices
- General dental practices
- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons
- Orthodontic offices
- Outpatient clinics
- Pediatric dentist offices
- Public health dentist offices

Wages & Openings

Dental Assistant Employment Data for Kankakee County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$15.88
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$25.17
Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County	~10
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	817



Opportunities

After you receive your dental assistant certificate or associate degree, you will have many opportunities for additional certification and advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Office Manager
- Oral Surgery Assistant
- Orthodontic Assistant



Kankakee Workforce Services

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