

**Dental Assisting****DAST****Degree:**

A.S. – Dental Assisting

**Certificate of Achievement (One year plus one Summer):**

Dental Assisting

**Division of Science and Allied Health**

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South Gym, room 220

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**Dental Assisting****Associate in Science Degree****Certificate of Achievement****Program Information**

The Dental Assisting program is a full-time day program to which students are admitted in August of each year. The curriculum is approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and leads to a Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assisting. After successful completion of the curriculum the student is eligible to take the National Board Examination and upon passing becomes a Certified Dental Assistant. This evidence of competence is recognized throughout the United States. In addition, graduates will be able to apply for and take the Dental Board of California examination for state licensure as Registered Dental Assistants. In addition to normal student expenses (for textbooks, etc.), the Dental Assisting Program requires an expenditure of approximately \$3,500.00 during the one-year program for uniforms and special supplies. Applicants are encouraged to check with the Financial Aid Office for possible assistance before entering the program if this creates a hardship.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, 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, Illinois 60611.

**Career Opportunities**

This program prepares the student for employment as a dental assistant. The dental assistant works with the dentist in providing patient treatment, including restorations, x-rays, and preventive services. Employment opportunities are excellent, not only in private dental offices, but also in public and private hospitals, clinics and laboratories, dental schools, dental supply houses, and in the armed forces.

**Gainful Employment**

For more information about program costs, graduation rates, median debt of program graduates, and other important information regarding gainful employment, please visit: <http://www.losrios.edu/gainful-emp-info/gedt.php?major=051083C01>

**Enrollment Eligibility**

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Completion of ENGRD 110 or ESLR 310 with a grade of “C” or better; or placement into ENGRD 208 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.
- Completion of ENGWR 51 or ESLW 310 with a grade of “C” or better; or placement into ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 through the assessment process.
- Proof of eligibility can be obtained by either (1) submitting an official college transcript indicating the successful completion of an appropriate level English Reading course or (2) submitting the results of assessment testing that verifies placement in an appropriate level English Reading course.
- High school or college grade point averages are not used to establish eligibility for the dental assisting program.

**Enrollment Process**

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Complete the online application (which includes uploading proof of eligibility) between January 1 and April 1 to apply for the fall semester program start.
- All eligible candidates will be entered into a random selection pool.
- The first 30 eligible applications will be selected for the program; all others are alternates and will be notified if/when seats become available.
- Students accepted for enrollment in the Dental Assisting Program will be required to provide documentation of: a) capability to perform essential job-related functions of a dental assistant; b) completed physical examination and immunizations; c) TB test; d) current professional level CPR certification; and e) completion of criminal background check and an 8-panel drug screen test.
- Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:
- incorporate and apply professional, ethical, legal, and regulatory concepts to oral health care services, community projects, and professional activities.
- integrate and apply health literacy and culturally competent communication skills to oral health care services, academic endeavors, community projects, and professional activities.
- apply critical thinking and self-assessment skills to enhance learning, research, patient care, professional growth, and continued competency.
- adapt knowledge of the practice of dentistry to the demonstration of clinical dental assisting skills.
- exhibit knowledge necessary for successful completion of the California Registered Dental Assistant’s Examination and the National Certified Dental Assistant’s Examination.

**Required Program****Units**

DAST 101 Biodental Science.....	2
DAST 102 Chairside Assisting .....	6
DAST 103 Patient Assessment .....	2.5
DAST 104 Anatomy and Morphology .....	3
DAST 107 Dental Radiology .....	2.5
DAST 111 Dental Patient Education .....	1
DAST 112 Registered Dental Assistant Advanced Duties.....	3
DAST 113 Advanced Patient Assessment and Dental Imaging .....	2
DAST 115 Registered Dental Assistant Advanced Duty Certifications.	2
DAST 116 Practice Management for the Dental Assistant .....	2
DAST 118 Board Preparation .....	2.5
DAST 119 Clinical Experience I .....	2
DAST 129 Clinical Experience II .....	3 <sup>1</sup>

**Total Required Units****33.5**<sup>1</sup> Offered only in summer session**Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree**

The Associate in Science degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See SCC graduation requirements.

**Certificate of Achievement**

The Certificate of Achievement may be obtained by completion of the required program with grades of “C” or better.

**Suggested Semester Sequence****First Semester, Fall**

DAST 101 Biodental Science.....	2
DAST 102 Chairside Assisting .....	6
DAST 103 Patient Assessment .....	2.5
DAST 104 Anatomy and Morphology.....	3
DAST 107 Dental Radiology .....	2.5

**Second Semester, Spring**

DAST 111 Dental Nutrition and Prevention.....	1
DAST 112 Registered Dental Assisting Advanced Duties.....	3
DAST 113 Advanced Patient Assessment and Dental Imaging .....	2
DAST 115 Registered Dental Assistant Advanced Duty Certifications.	2
DAST 116 Practice Management for the Dental Assistant .....	2
DAST 118 Board Preparation .....	2.5
DAST 119 Clinical Experience I .....	2

**Summer Session**

DAST 129 Clinical Experience II .....	3
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## Dental Assisting (DAST)

**DAST 100 Introduction to Dental Assisting 1 Unit**

*Prerequisite: None.*

*Hours: 18 hours LEC*

This course is an introduction to the practice of dental assisting. Topics include dental terminology, infection control, study strategies, and the expectations and concerns of the allied dental health professional.

**DAST 101 Biodental Science 2 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.*

*Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Dental Assisting program and completion of ENGRD 11 or ESLR 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.*

*Hours: 36 hours LEC*

Biodental Science includes microbiology and asepsis, disease prevention, infection control regulations, occupational safety procedures, sterilization, and hazardous materials in the dental practice.

**DAST 102 Chairside Assisting 6 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.*

*Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Dental Assisting program and completion of ENGRD 11 or ESLR 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.*

*Hours: 72 hours LEC; 108 hours LAB*

This course is an introduction to basic dental assisting duties and the principles of four-handed dentistry. Basic dental materials and instrumentation are major components of this course.

**DAST 103 Patient Assessment 2.5 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.*

*Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Dental Assisting program and completion of ENGRD 11 or ESLR 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.*

*Hours: 45 hours LEC*

This course is an introduction to patient assessment, including communication skills, medical history assessment, pharmacology, dental history assessment, vital signs, and medical emergencies. An emphasis is placed on the relationship between systemic conditions and prescriptive medications and their effects on the oral cavity and subsequent dental treatment.

**DAST 104 Anatomy and Morphology 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.*

*Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Dental Assisting program and completion of ENGRD 11 or ESLR 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

The focus of this course is dental anatomy and morphology including the form, function, and location of the hard and soft structures of the mouth. In addition, the course covers material related to general physiology, oral embryology and histology, and physiology of the head and neck as these relate to the practice of dentistry.

**DAST 107 Dental Radiology 2.5 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.*

*Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Dental Assisting program and completion of ENGRD 11 or ESLR 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 through the assessment process.*

*Hours: 27 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB*

This course covers the principles of dental radiology. Topics include theory and techniques, operation of the x-ray machine, biological effects, safety practices, and the practical application of utilizing appropriate infection control while exposing, processing, mounting, and evaluating intraoral dental films.

**DAST 111 Dental Patient Education 1 Unit**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 103, 104, and 107 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 18 hours LEC*

The focus of this course is the study of nutrition from a whole body concept and its interrelated effects on the oral environment. The students will integrate these concepts with preventive dentistry concepts and the role of the dental assistant in community and public health situations.

**DAST 112 Registered Dental Assistant Advanced Duties 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 27 hours LEC; 81 hours LAB*

This course includes the practical application of advanced dental assisting duties as defined by the Dental Board of California.

**DAST 113 Advanced Patient Assessment and Dental Imaging 2 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 24 hours LEC; 36 hours LAB*

This course builds on the principles of DAST 103 Patient Assessment. Topics of this course include medical and dental history assessment, treatment planning, head and neck examination, intra-oral inspection of hard and soft tissues, gingival assessment, intra-oral and extra-oral imaging, full mouth radiographs, and case presentation.

**DAST 115 Registered Dental Assistant Advanced Duty Certifications 2 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 108 hours LAB*

This course provides instruction and practice in advanced dental assisting duties including coronal polish, application of pit and fissure sealants, patient assessment, teeth whitening, and caries detection.

**DAST 116 Practice Management for the Dental Assistant 2 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 36 hours LEC*

This course encompasses the principles of dental office management including: administrative procedures, record keeping, scheduling, dental histories, financial arrangements, bookkeeping, insurance procedures, patient communication, patient psychology, and job-finding skills. This course also includes a thorough review of all dental assisting duties allowed by the Dental Board of California and the application process for both the Registered Dental Assistant Exam and the Certified Assistant Exam.

**DAST 118 Board Preparation 2.5 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Hours: 36 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB*

This course is the culmination of all previous dental assisting courses and focuses on the specific requirements and components of both the state and national dental assisting board exams. At the completion of this course, students should be well-prepared to take both the written and practical Registered Dental Assisting examinations of the Dental Board of California, as well as the Certified Dental Assistant examination of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**DAST 119 Clinical Experience I 2 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 101, 102, 104, and 107 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 108 hours LAB*

This course involves performance of dental assisting duties in an assigned dental office.

**DAST 129 Clinical Experience II 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: DAST 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 118, and 119 with grades of "C" or better*

*Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 192 hours LAB*

This course involves performance of basic dental assisting duties as well as expanded duties in an assigned dental office.

**DAST 295 Independent Studies in Dental Assisting 1-3 Units**

*Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations*

*Enrollment Limitation: Student must be enrolled in the Dental Assisting program.*

*Hours: 162 hours LAB*

This is a course for those dental assisting students requesting special projects related to their dental assisting education.

**DAST 299 Experimental Offering in Dental Assisting .5-4 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Hours: 72 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB*

See Experimental Offerings