OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

You will experience the joy, gratitude and respect of your patients. The tearful thanks an accident victim with a beautiful new smile or the pride of a child after his or her first dental exam and cleaning will bring personal fulfillment. You will be a respected, appreciated member of a highly professional team. The work is exacting, especially relating to instrument sterilization, room preparation, instrument passes to the dentist and measuring dental materials. At the same time, you are expected to skillfully manage each patient’s anxiety over treatment pain or appearance.

Dental assistants are a vital part of a dental care community, dedicated to either administrative aspects or clinical functions of a dental office, and serving as an important care bridge between dentists and their patients.

Who is the face of DA?
Dental assistants are expected to be a bridge between dentist and patient, whether that’s easing a young child’s anxiety over a first dental cleaning, meticulously measuring out dental materials or sterilizing instruments. Those who pursue this role should be detail-oriented, high-energy team players; calm under stress; have good manual dexterity; and be able to anticipate others’ needs.

Career pathways
Many dental assistants continue their education, progressing to higher levels of licensure and certification. Dental assisting is also an excellent launching pad to become a dental hygienist or dentist.

Did You Know?
- Dental assisting can be a gateway to a dental hygienist or dentist role.
- Most dental assistants work full time during the day, but tenure can offer greater flexibility in this schedule.
- Dental assistants are generally paid hourly and are eligible for overtime.
- Most employers require a diploma (nine months to one year of training) for entry-level dental assisting roles.

Job Outlook

BRIGHT OUTLOOK
24.5 percent projected growth According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014-15
Dental assisting is among the “100 Best Jobs in 2015.” – U.S. News & World Report

Administrative Duties
Dental assistants work on the front lines of operations in a dental office setting, supporting the following areas:
- Answering phones
- Discharging patients
- Maintaining patient records

- Instructing patients in good dental hygiene
- Billing patients

Clinical Responsibilities
Dental assistants who primarily serve patients in a chairside role can focus on:
- Greeting patients
- Managing patient flow to and from treatment areas
- Preparing treatment areas and instruments
- Suctioning fluids

- Presenting instruments and materials to dentist during treatment
- Putting patients at ease
- Removing sutures
- Taking X-rays

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For more information about our graduation rates, the median debts of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.concorde.edu/disclosures.