

What are some of a dental assistant's responsibilities?

- Prepare and organize dental instruments needed by dentists to work on a patient
- Help make patients comfortable before, during, and after treatment
- Take medical history and provide post-operative instructions
- Schedule appointments
- Take X-rays and impressions, with additional training



Become part of a team

Training as a dental assistant doesn't have to be like pulling teeth. In Massachusetts, there are four tiers of dental assistants based on the training you do. Training opportunities range from on-the-job (OJT), to completing an accredited program, or completing an accredited program plus additional specialty training to become an expanded function dental assistant.

As an entry-level position, the role of a dental assistant offers opportunities to learn more about dentistry and grow your career in the healthcare field. Thanks to on-the-job training, you'll be working closely with dental hygienists and dentists so you can see firsthand if those are positions you'd like to pursue.

How do I become a dental assistant?

There are several possible paths to becoming a dental assistant in Massachusetts, each designated by the type of training required and the duties that the tier is legally allowed to perform. The duties that each tier is allowed to perform vary according to training. Many colleges and universities in Massachusetts offer Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited dental assisting training programs.

ON THE JOB TRAINING (OJT)

An OJT dental assistant receives direct training in a dental office from a licensed, supervising dentist. A non-formally trained person can join the dental workforce as an OJT dental assistant through two pathways: initial licensure or notice of intent to apply.

Learn more here: bit.ly/ojtresourceguide

DENTAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) offers eight accredited programs in Massachusetts. Other programs are state-approved vocational dental assisting programs or licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Learn more here: massdentalassisting.org/resources



Resources

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Commission on Dental Accreditation
Dental Assistant National Board
Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry
Massachusetts Dental Assistants Association
Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association
Massachusetts Dental Society



CODA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

These programs have been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation:

Charles H. McCann Technical School
mccanntech.org

Massasoit Community College massasoit.edu

Middlesex Community College
middlesex.mass.edu

Mount Wachusett Community College
mwcc.edu

Northern Essex Community College
necc.mass.edu

Southeastern Technical Institute
stitech.edu/index.php/dental-assisting

Springfield Technical Community College
stcc.edu

Quinsigamond Community College qcc.edu

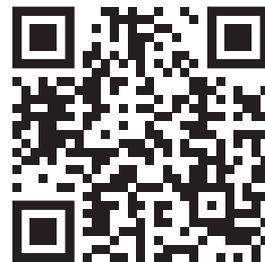


Drilling down on what it means to be a dental assistant

Dental assistants play a valuable role in dental offices, and practice owners are dedicated to providing competitive wages and benefits reflecting that value. The role of a dental assistant is to help patients by providing in-person oral health services. As a professional in the healthcare industry, you will benefit from job security, flexible hours, ongoing professional development, and a career ladder. Become a dental assistant today and make a difference in the life of your patients.



Learn more by visiting our website:
MassDentalAssisting.org



ABOUT THE MASSACHUSETTS DENTAL SOCIETY

The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS), a 5,000+ member constituent of the American Dental Association, is dedicated to the professional development of its member dentists through initiatives in education, advocacy, and promotion of the highest professional standards while also championing oral health in the Commonwealth.

With a mission to provide member dentists with the tools they need to succeed, the MDS recognizes how essential dental assistants are to dental practice operations. Their role on the team impacts patient's wellbeing and is vital to the success of the practice.

For more info, please contact:
DA@MassDental.org
800-342-8747



Want to make patients, colleagues, and yourself smile?

Looking to enter the healthcare field to care for people and grow your career?

Learn more about the benefits of becoming a **Dental Assistant!**

