

Institutional Plan Update 2023- Weekend Dental Assistant School

Dental Assistants are still in very high demand, as this dentistry field finds itself with a shortage of Dental Assistants. We are a stable Chairside Dental Assistant School with a long and successful track record for students entering this profession. Many of our students are securing their Dental Assistant jobs while they are still completing our course and some even securing their job before class starts simply because they are coming to our school. We have also had dental offices hire people with no experience and pay for them to attend our school. We continue to provide a high-quality education in dental assisting to meet the demand. The focus on preparing our students for the real world of dentistry is emphasized throughout this course. It's much more than learning academics. It's working with your hands, it's working with patients and your team, learning to be a team player, and helping wherever you can in the dental office and it's having the soft skills to make a new dental assistant with an improving level of excellence. This preparation is a necessary and always an ongoing component that has been successful. The real-life examples and experiences have been and will continue to be shared with the students from all our talented instructors as students move through the modules of learning. The components we teach are essential for a new dental assistant and help with their success in a dental practice. Our emphasis on the job training, working with them in depth with the resumes and the interview process simulation have and continue to be a great success. Especially since we continue to adjust as the market changes. The transition from being a student to entering the workforce has become easier because of the preparation by our school. Follow-up surveys continually report our graduates loving their choice for their new career as chairside dental assistant.

Even though we are past the post-pandemic stage, we still thrive to have ongoing dedication to keep our students safe. We have always been emphatic and "by the book" with infection control, prevention of disease transmission and personal protective equipment. Students truly understand the reality of why this is so important to carry through to their everyday and professional life. We will continue with our screening procedures to ensure safety and a trusted environment. Both students and instructors have come to expect the precautions. We not only continue with the screening but have added additional enhancements with 2 new medical HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters throughout the classroom and clinical areas. We ask students to leave for lunch, which allows us to use our cordless handheld spray to disinfect all areas of the school. This is incredibly important as it has helped maintain the health of everyone that walks into our school.

Our website is continually being developed. We have transformed the website once again to make it very simple and easy to navigate and more welcoming. The new website allows easier application submissions, easy access to the next class dates along with the updated logo, more student graduate testimonials, real-time Google reviews and a Google Maps location for

easier directions to our school. We have condensed information to certain areas making it easier to find what students are looking for. Contact with the school is made easy with our user-friendly application, website contact form and constant phone coverage. Our website SEO has more emphasis added for mobile users, along with a widget build with ADA compliance that allows users with difficulties navigating the site to alter it to their preference, so they have everyday advantage of an informative experience and easy access to all there is to being a dental assistant.

We continue to make improvements to give our students the best education and the newest equipment. A new textbook edition had been implemented with accompanying power point lecture and visuals. We did this ASAP due to the changes in the dentistry field and want our students to have the most up to date information, especially with the update in the infection control area. Dental equipment has been replaced and updated; repairs and maintenance were done to ensure student safety and general use. Another dental supply storage cabinet was added, and existing cabinets were reorganized. This has given instructors ease of access as well as efficiency. Everything has been put in the bins according to what we are teaching that week. This allows instructors to easily grab what they need instead of trying to find what is needed and delay clinical along with lecture. We have redesigned the classroom to be more efficient and comfortable for the students. We did this by removing a wall to make the classroom bigger, new desks, new chairs, adding a new teacher instructional area with a standing desk, new computer system and new screen to give the students better visual no matter the position in the classroom. We have also updated the building with new décor to make it more modern and similar to what a current dental office would have. The outside of the building has also been painted and a watering system for landscaping has been added as well.

We continue with instructor training, especially with the clinical hands-on instruction. This way every instructor is teaching the same and “by the book”. Our environment allows instructors to teach those soft skills that are incredibly important. This is what sets our school apart from others. Instructors have been and are carefully selected to have those great qualities in academic excellence, soft skills, leadership skills and real-world experience. We now have staff meetings regularly to have everyone add their input as well as what is working and what isn’t according to what they see and hear from the students. Implementing changes weekly according to how dental offices change their procedure as well. This allows the staff to make sure our students are up to date with current dental offices.

The school continues to have 100% “student satisfaction” and 100% “met expectations” with the course. Students speak about the positive and well-run teaching environment and absolutely love our instructors. They report that they have made lifetime friends while in school. We are proud of these things and reporting a great school experience and education along with job preparation means so much.