Dental Assistants perform a variety of functions. The extent of these functions depends upon the individual's background and credentials. The dental assisting program offered at Rutgers SHRP prepares the student for Certification in Dental Assisting (CDA), licensure as a registered Dental Assistant (RDA), and Licensure as a Dental Radiologic Technologist (LRT(D)).

As such, the individual may perform the following functions:

- Assist the dentist in all phases of patient treatment
- Sterilize instruments
- Prepare treatment rooms
- Provide patient education and nutritional counseling
- Arrange and confirm appointments
- Prepare dental insurance claims
- Expose, process, and mount radiographs
- Perform a variety of intraoral expanded functions
- Work as members of the dental health team
- Perform basic laboratory procedures
- Select and transfer instruments to the dentist

**Where do Dental Assistants work?**

- Private dental offices
- Group Practices
- Hospitals
- Dental clinics
- Insurance companies
- Dental Suppliers
- Dental manufacturing companies
- Armed services
- Education institutions
- Public health offices
- International employment

**What is the employment forecast for dental assistants?**

The current job market is stable and future projections indicate a continued high demand for assisting services.

**Are there opportunities for career advancement for dental assistants?**

Yes. Dental assistants have become office managers, research associates, dental sales representatives, educators, dental laboratory technologist, dental hygienists, and dentists. There are also educational opportunities available for dental assistants who wish to obtain degree beyond the certificate level. Credits from the Dental Assisting Program transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) on-line degree program with Rutgers University and Thomas Edison State College (TESC). A 1+1 Associate degree option is also available through TESC.
What are desirable characteristics of dental assistants?
- Interest in science
- Understanding of the human body in health and disease
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Manual dexterity
- Desire for continual learning
- Ability to utilize problem-solving skills
- Concern for others
- Team player

What are the advantages of a career in dental assisting?
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Gainful employment
- Good hourly wages
- Good working environment
- Flexible hours
- Health care delivery team member
- Ability to help others

What is the average salary for dental assistants?
Most certified (CDA) and registered dental assistants (RDA) with an x-ray license (LRT(D)) may command a minimum hourly wage of $18.00 upon graduation. Some employers offer uniform allowances, reimbursement for continuing education and professional dues, health benefits, and pension plans.

Where are the dental assisting classes offered?
General education classes are offered by Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Ocean County College, Raritan Valley Community College, Sussex County Community College, Thomas Edison State College and Union County College. Professional coursework is offered on both the Scotch Plains and Newark campuses of Rutgers University, School of Health Related Professions (SHRP) and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (SDM) facilities.

In addition to tuition and laboratory fees, are there other student expenses?
All students are required to purchase uniforms and textbooks, and lease instruments and supplies. Students are also responsible for fees for parking, professional meeting and licensing examinations. It is also strongly recommended that students apply for membership in their professional association (ADAA or ADHA).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR FOR AN APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Brookdale Community College
765 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738-1597
(732) 224-2375

Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 877-1865

Ocean County College
College Drive
Toms River, NJ 08754
(732) 255-0400 x2423

Raritan Valley Community College
Route 28 & Lamington Road
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 526-1200 x8629

Sussex County Community College
1 College Hill Road
Newton, NJ 07860
(973) 300-2108

Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
(888) 442-8372 (or)
(973) 972-5454

Union County College
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey 07016
(908) 709-7956
Applicants must contact the affiliate college directly, through which they are applying, to determine the residency credit requirements regarding the number of general education credits which must be taken at the affiliate college.

All Dental Assisting Program information is posted on the Department of Allied Dental Education. www.shrp.rutgers.edu.