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How to Become a Dental Assistant by David Hawthorne

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Typically, Dental Assistants can join the field without a 4 year college degree. Skills may be learned on the job however, most entry positions prefer a degree from a Dental Assistant School. These credentials are typically earned through secondary channels which include community college programs, junior colleges, trade schools, technical institutes or even the Military.

Dental Assistant educational programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of American Dental Association. Currently over 250 programs carry such accreditation in the US.

In order for a prospective Dental Assistant to be a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), she must pass a Certification exam following their graduation from a licensed Dental Assistant School, or two years of on-the-job training.

The Certification exam is administered through the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB).

Accredited Dental Assistant School Programs often require 9 - 12 months of fulltime course work and the costs associated with this type of training may vary by institution and state. However, this is often the quickest way to become a fully certified Dental Assistant.

Those focused on achieving certification via on-the-job training may prefer non-conventional training alternatives. Ten to Twelve week training programs are readily available. The costs associated with these programs may match the tuition for an accredited school; however, the prospect would have the advantage of entering the workplace much sooner.

Prospects choosing this path might discover themselves in competition for most entry positions with graduated and certified candidates.

Keep in mind that requirements do vary by state. Some states require all Dental Assistants to be Licensed or Registered. This process may require written or practical exams. Be certain to understand your state requirements before embarking on a Dental Assistant School program.

Continuing Education opportunities also are available for practicing Dental Assistants as those responsible for specialized duties, such as radiological procedures, may be required to carry additional qualification.

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David Hawthorne owns and operates a a titleDental Assistant School Dental Assistant Schoolwebsite designed to deliver the best available information for those exploring career opportunities as a Dental Assistant.

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