**I’m interested in pursuing a career in Dental Assisting, how do I get started?**

It’s recommended that you start by reviewing the information on the [Dental Assisting webpage](https://dentalprograms.santarosa.edu/about-dental-assisting). You can also find information the program on our [Dental Assisting Program page](https://portal.santarosa.edu/srweb/SR_ProgramOfStudy.aspx?MajorCertID=2310) to find out more information about the courses you’ll take while in the program. If you have any additional questions, please speak with a Health Sciences Counselor by calling (707) 527-4451 or visit their website for a same-day appointment or to schedule a future appointment either in person or by Zoom.

**Do I need to apply to the College and the Dental Assisting Program?**

If you are not already a student with SRJC, you must complete an online application for admission to the College. Please visit the [Admissions website](https://admissions.santarosa.edu/new-or-returning-students) for step-by-step instructions on how to apply to the college. The Dental Assisting Program also requires you to complete a separate application. You must have a Student I.D. number, obtained at the time of registration, to apply to the Dental Assisting program. The program application must be complete, contain all the required documentation, and be submitted online prior to the deadline.

**What perquisites are required for the Dental Assisting Program?**

Beginning Fall 2019, there are no required prerequisites required for the Dental Assisting Program. However, CSKL 334 and COUN 60 are highly recommended and CS 5, HLC 160, ENGL/ESL 100, or eligibility for ENGL 1A is recommended to prepare for the program.

**How many students will be accepted?**

24 students will be accepted each fall.

**Will there be dental office experience?**

Dental Assisting students are assigned externship experience 2 clinical rotations a week in a private general/specialists dentistry practice of 16 weeks in the Spring semester. 75% of experience will be from general dentistry and 25% of experience will be from specialty dentistry.

**How long does the program take?**

The dental assisting program is a 2-semester program (Fall and Spring).

**Can I take individual courses in the program without applying to the program?**

No, you must apply to and be accepted to the program to enroll in courses.

**Is the Dental Assisting Program approved?**

The Registered Dental Assisting Program is approved by the Dental Board of California. Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the California State Registered Dental Assisting written examination.

**How hard is the program?**

Each year many students mention that the program is more challenging than they anticipated. Quizzes in multiple classes can be given on the same day. Cumulative midterm and final exams are given for each class. The faculty is very committed to helping students succeed, and we have a 90% completion rate.

**Does the program help with job placement?**

The program does have an online job board where dentists may place ads. The Dental Assisting program has an excellent reputation in the dental community and SRJC graduates do not usually have trouble finding jobs. Often students are offered jobs during their clinical rotations.

**Are there any scholarship opportunities or is financial aid available?**

Yes, there are scholarships through SRJC’s Scholarship Office specifically for Dental Assisting Students. Financial Aid may be available through the Financial Aid Office.

New and continuing students can be eligible for the Doyle Scholarship program (up to $1,700 per year for students enrolled in 15+ units; pro-rated at 6, 9, and 12 units).

<https://doyle.santarosa.edu/doyle-scholarships>

**Dental Assisting specific scholarships currently include:**

1. Bettie Underwood Goodman-Malmuth Dental Assisting Scholarship-$1875.00
2. Patricia Van Schaick Dental Assisting Scholarship- $350.00
3. F. and C. Lahm Family Dental Assisting Scholarship-$500.00
4. Dr. Richard Gary Wong Scholarship for Santa Rosa High School Graduates-$400.00
5. Mariah Roat Memorial Scholarship- $1000.00
6. Marjorie E Peterson Scholarship- $625.00
7. Patricia Van Schaick Dental Assisting Scholarship- $350.00