

# Dental Assistants

**Entry wages (2014):** \$12.24 per hour or \$25,459 annually

**Projected growth (2015-2025):** Faster than average at 20.1% in Tarrant County

## What will you do?

Dental Assistants duties vary by dental offices and each state they work in. They perform tasks from patient care, x-rays, recordkeeping and scheduling patient appointments. Including lab tasks such as taking dental impressions or prepare materials to make impressions for crowns all under the supervision of the dentist.

## Where will you work?

Dental Assistants work in dental clinics, dental offices, hospitals and government agencies. They work under the supervision of the dentist. There are 3 Types of dental assistants: Qualified Dental Assistant (Not Certified), Registered Dental Assistant (Texas), and Certified Dental Assistant (National).

## What Experience do you need?

Dental assistants who do not have formal education in dental assisting may learn their duties through on-the-job training as a non-certified dental assistant. They are not allowed to duties such as taking ex-ray and many others without a dentist supervising. Employers prefer credentialed dental assistants to be able to perform specific duties without their supervision.

## What type of Job Training do I need?

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) [Texas State Board of Dental Examiners](#) is the state authority on certifications to perform dental assisting duties in Texas. There are four certifications: Registered Dental Assistant, Nitrous Oxide Monitoring, Coronal Polishing, and Pit & Fissure Sealant. Renewal of RDA certification is annual. After the first RDA renewal, the person must attend Continuing Education classes and complete them to renew the certificate the following year. Must also have a current CPR certification to be able to renew dental assistant certification.

Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus, is the only TSBDE state approved training provider for all 4 types of certifications.



**31-9091.00 - Dental Assistants (ONET Code)**

## What else should I know?

For criminal background applicants (felony, misdemeanors, deferred adjudication, etc.), complete the [Criminal History Evaluation Application](#)

# Approved Tarrant County Training Programs

Provider	Program Name	Hours (Contact/Credit)	Cost	Pell Eligible
Texas A & M	Clinical Dental Assistant (Online)	240/0	\$1,995.00	No
NDS Dental Assistant School	Dental Assisting	80/0	\$3,170.00	No
Tarrant County College-Northeast	Dental Assistant	523/0	\$4,187.00	No
University of Texas as Arlington	Registered Dental Assistant	336/0	\$5,340.00	No
Brightwood Colleg	Dental Assistant	760/50	\$8,640.00	Yes
Concorde Career Institute	Dental Assistant	780/28	\$9,995.00	Yes
The College of Healthcare Professionals	Dental Assistant	900/40	\$12,000.00	Yes

The cost of training reflected on this page is set by the training provider and does not reflect Tarrant County WIOA funding amounts. All services are subject to availability and funding.

\*This information is subject to change. See a Workforce Center Career Counselor for more information.



# DRAFT Career Pathway Map – Dental Assistant Occupation

