

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Congratulations on taking your first steps toward a rewarding career in dental assisting. Porter and Chester Institute's Dental Assisting program is designed to provide a comprehensive education with a focus on hands-on learning. As you explore enrollment, we'd like to share some additional information.

Porter and Chester Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and the Dental Assisting program, like all of PCI's programs, is an approved program under this grant of accreditation. Accreditation assures students of the quality of the education they are receiving and the commitment of their school to maintaining high standards of performance and accountability. Additional information about accreditation may be found at www.accsc.org.

All Dental Assisting students will complete a dental office externship and PCI facilitates placement at this site.

- Externship hours are done primarily during daytime working hours but specific hours cannot be guaranteed
- If a student is removed from an externship site for behavioral issues (absenteeism, tardiness, rudeness, failure to follow office rules, etc.) PCI cannot guarantee replacement sites.

Certain immunizations are necessary to protect both the dental assistant and the patient. Prior to, or shortly after starting class, you will need to provide immunization records for:

- MMR - 2 doses (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- TB (Tuberculosis)
- Varicella (or titre if you have had chicken pox)
- TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- Hepatitis B vaccine (this is available through Concentra as part of your program.)

Students have the right to refuse vaccinations, but without them they may not be accepted by an externship site and may be denied employment. PCI cannot guarantee externship placement (and by extension, graduation) for unvaccinated students.

The radiology and infection control certifications are credentials many employers look for. Students may sit for the Radiation Health and Safety exam and the Infection Control exam offered by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) any time after completing the appropriate coursework – and the cost of the exams is covered as part of your education at PCI.

The Radiology and Infection Control certificates can be applied toward the Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) exam, as can the General Chairside Assisting exam. PCI graduates who wish to sit for the General Chairside Assisting exam may do so after working 3500 hours in the field (or approximately 2 years). The DANB exam applications ask about any criminal records. Students with a record will need to provide copies of their court records to the DANB board which will make the decision as to whether or not the student may sit for any of the certification exams. Visit www.DANB.org for additional information on all DANB exams.

In Massachusetts, graduates must apply for and receive a license from the Board of Registration in Dentistry prior to working as a Dental Assistant. This process involves a "CORI" (criminal background) check. Visit www.mass.gov/dph/boards/dn for more information. PCI graduates apply as "formally trained" candidates.

All PCI staff are committed to helping you achieve academic and professional success. Our Career Services staff will assist you with career planning, professional expectations, and job search strategies. Instructors can provide real life references about their work in dental assisting. Please let your Career Program Specialist (CPS) know if you would like to speak with an Instructor or Career Services Advisor during your enrollment process.

By completing the acknowledgement form, I certify that the items listed above were covered with me prior to enrolling.