Dental Assisting Program Course Descriptions

**Fall Semester**

**DAT 1110 - Introduction to Dental Assisting**
This course is designed to provide an introduction to dentistry and the history of dentistry, dental equipment, dental auxiliaries, psychology applications to dentistry, personal and certification requirements, legal and ethical consideration, work ethics and communication skills. Emphasis is placed on the Alabama Dental Practice Act and OSHA Standards. Upon completion, a student should be able to discuss basic aspects of dentistry. CORE

**DAT 1111 - Pre-Clinical Procedures I**
This course is designed to introduce chairside assisting including concepts of four-handed dentistry, sterilization techniques, dental instruments, anesthesia, operative dentistry and dental specialties. Emphasis will be placed on preparation of a student for clinical dental assisting. Upon completion, a student should be able to perform dental assisting skills in a clinical setting. CORE

**DAT 1112 - Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting**
This course is designed to study basic microbiology, oral pathology, pharmacology and medical emergencies. Emphasis is placed on the correlation of these sciences to the practice of dentistry. Upon course completion, a student should be able to apply basic science to the dental field. CORE

**DAT 1114 - Anatomy and Physiology for Dental Assisting**
This course is designed to study dental anatomy and the structure of the head and neck. Emphasis will be placed on tooth and root morphology. Embryological and histological correlations will provide a foundation essential to an understanding of dental health. Upon course completion, students should be able to discuss and identify basic structure and function of the permanent and deciduous dentition and their surrounding structures. CORE

**DAT 1115 - Dental Materials**
This course is designed to study the characteristics, manipulation, and application of dental materials ordinarily used in the dental office. Each student will be given intra-oral and extra-oral technical tasks to perform. Upon course completion, a student should be able to take and pour alginate impressions, trim study models, construct custom trays and temporary crowns, prepare and place restorative materials and manipulate cements and impression materials. CORE

**DAT 1118 - Applied Psychology in Dentistry**
This course is designed to provide a study in human behavior. Emphasis will be placed on basic concepts of human behavior, applications to self and to one's life situations, application of these concepts to the patient/health care provider interaction and utilization of positive and effective habits when working in the dental health care setting. CORE

**Spring Semester**

**DAT 1211 - Clinical Practice I**
This course is designed to provide a student the opportunity for practical work experience in clinical settings. Emphasis is placed on the basic skills of dental assisting. Upon course completion, a student should be able to demonstrate basic skills in the area of chairside assisting. CORE

**DAT 1213 - Dental Radiology**
This course is designed to cover the essential knowledge of radiographic techniques of the practice of dentistry. Each student should be taught to provide diagnostically acceptable intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs with emphasis being placed on x-ray properties, generation of x-rays, film processing, infection control, quality assurance, intra-oral radiographic technique and image characteristics. Upon course completion, a student should be able to expose, process and mount radiographs for diagnostic purposes under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. CORE
DAT 1214 - Dental Health Education
This course is designed to introduce a student to the basic principles of nutrition, preventive dentistry and dental health education. Emphasis will be placed on philosophy of preventive dentistry including oral hygiene, patient motivation and management, and methods of oral health education. Upon course completion, a student should be able to apply the basic principles of nutrition and preventive dentistry. CORE

DAT 1216 - Pre-Clinical Procedures II
This course is a continuation of Pre-clinical Procedures I. Emphasis is placed on dental specialties. Upon course completion, students should be able to discuss and identify dental specialty procedures and instrumentation. CORE

DAT 1218 - Communications
This course is designed to study various types of communication in the dental office. Students will demonstrate the ability to produce effective letters, memoranda and similar documents. Additionally, students will demonstrate the ability to prepare and deliver an essay on dental topics to the class. CORE

Summer Semester
DAT 1311 - Clinical Practice II
This course is designed to provide the student the opportunity to develop advanced dental assisting skills in chairside dental assisting procedures, radiology, office procedures, teamwork and communication skills. Emphasis will be placed on clinical procedures. Upon course completion, a student should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the area of chairside assisting. CORE

DAT 1312 - Clinical Applied Infection Control and OSHA Standards
This course is designed for the integration of previously acquired knowledge of OSHA Standards and Infection Control in a clinical setting. Emphasis will be placed on clinical application of infection control and compliance of OSHA standards as it relates to dental chairside assisting. Upon course completion, a student should be able to demonstrate skills in the area of infection control and OSHA guidelines. CORE

DAT 1313 - Dental Assisting Seminar
This course is designed to discuss and evaluate each student's clinical experiences, prepare resumes and develop interviewing skills. Emphasis will be placed on employment preparation and new technologies in dentistry as related to dental assisting. CORE

DAT 1318 - Dental Office Procedures
This course is designed to address basic dental office procedures including: appointment and recall systems, financial records, accounting procedures, insurance claims, filing systems, purchasing and inventory of supplies and equipment and the utilization of computers to perform business office procedures. Emphasis is placed on the duties of a dental receptionist. Upon course completion, a student should be able to demonstrate efficiency in practice management. CORE