Dental Assisting

West-MEC 2026-27

DENTAL ASSISTING

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM - 900-hour program

- Perform digital x-rays, chair-side assistance, and use advanced instrumentation and technology to work alongside a dental professional.
- Develop the passion for making a difference by educating adults and children on the importance of oral health and hygiene.
- Take impressions, make dental models, and create whitening trays.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS*

- Current Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students may apply
- One credit of English with a C or better
- One credit of Science with a C or better
- Copy of unofficial transcript
- Proof of residency in West-MEC district boundaries due
- Copy of birth certificate and immunizations/State Exemption Form due at the time of enrollment
- Students who do not meet program requirements may apply under a "Student Success Action Plan" through their high school counselor.
- Transportation is not provided by West-MEC. Families are responsible for providing transportation to and from West-MEC.
- All required course hours must be completed within each semester. Limited makeup hours available

*Program requirements are subject to change per industry age restrictions, credentials requirements, and administrative discretion.

Meeting program requirements does not guarantee enrollment.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

- Proof of current Immunizations OR an AZ State Exemption Form are required
  - If an AZ State Exemption Form is submitted, a West-MEC Acknowledgement Form must be signed.
- Immunizations may be required for externships in health care settings.
  - Some credentials in this program may require externship completion.
- Immunization may be required for employment in health care settings.

COST REQUIREMENTS

Upon enrollment into the program:

- $150.00 non-refundable registration fee includes enrollment processing, supplies, CTSO Membership, & uniform shirts. Other uniforms/supply requirements are the responsibility of the student. Registration fees are non-refundable.
  - CTSO Leadership development training is embedded through membership and participation in the Career and Technical Student Organization | HOSA.
- It is recommended students have access to a personal computer and reliable internet outside of class to complete assignments and projects.

Optional Costs:

- Dual enrollment may result in additional fees. (*registration through MCCCD partners is required*)
- It is recommended students have access to a personal computer and reliable internet outside of class to complete assignments and projects.

Tuition:

- Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) recipients are responsible for tuition West-MEC is an approved vendor.
- Student Tax Credit (STO)/Private School Scholarship recipients are responsible for tuition.
- Are a junior applicant who will become a senior in a two-year program
- Obtains a General Educational Development (GED) certificate while in a West-MEC Program
- Student is a Foreign Exchange student
- Students who reside outside of West-MEC boundaries are responsible for tuition.
- Will graduate from high school as a senior before completing their West-MEC program
- Details regarding tuition costs are available at Tuition Fees.

INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS

If eligible, students will have the opportunity to test for the following credentials.

TEST FEES PREPAID BY WEST-MEC; It is the responsibility of the student to maintain copies of all earned credentials.

- This industry credential is required for employment in the field most of the time.
  - Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) - Radiation Health and Safety Certification
  - Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) - Coronal Polish
  - American Heart Association CPR/AED
  - American Dental Association (ADA) HIPAA Compliance Training Completer
  - American Dental Association (ADA) OSHA Compliance Training Completer

Proof of Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency may be required for credential testing. Students with a documented disability may request credential testing accommodations through the individual testing entity.

ACCREDITED cognia

Program information may change as West-MEC strives to provide the best opportunities for students. Refer to www.west-mec.edu for most current information. Program is taught by industry certified instructors. West-MEC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations.

Revised 09/12/2025

Dental Assisting

West-MEC 2026-27

CAREERPATHWAYS

- Dental assistant, orthodontic assistant, dental hygienist*, general dentistry*, orthodontist*, oral surgeon*, periodontist*, endodontist*, prosthodontist*, CTE teacher*
- Entry-level salary range: $17.97 - $22.00 per hour**

*with additional education in this pathway | **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment & Wages

LOCATION & HOURS

West-MEC Northwest Campus:
13201 W. Grand Avenue
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.877.6914

Monday - Friday
1st Year: 7:00 AM – 9:30 AM
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
2nd Year: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

West-MEC Southwest Campus:
500 N Verrado Way
Buckeye AZ 85326
623.872.6260

Monday - Friday
1st Year: 7:00 AM – 9:30 AM
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
2nd Year: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

NOTE: West-MEC & high school calendars may not align and all transportation is provided by the student/parent.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

- Acceptance into West-MEC programs is competitive.
- Students may only be enrolled in **one** West-MEC Central Program at a time.
- The order for filling seats by grade level is as follows:
  - Current Sophomores
  - Current Juniors*
  - Current Seniors*
- Applications are ranked, in part, by attendance, GPA, discipline, and career choice (ECAP)
- Program hours are not excused for participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, vacation, or employment.
- West-MEC priority application submission date is in the beginning of the second semester. Contact your school counselor for your school's Priority Application Deadline.
- West-MEC provides accommodations and modifications identified in the IEP/504 for high school students. Students who graduate from high school or have a GED will not be eligible for IEP services. Graduated students will need to self-advocate for reasonable accommodations that are aligned with industry certifications.

STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Strong interest in chosen career pathway.
- History of good attendance and discipline, and on track for graduation.
- Ability to work well with others and cooperate with the instructor.
- Ability to work accurately/follow procedures to an industry-standard.
- Strong technical reading and study skills; the textbook for this course is written at the college reading level.
- Uniforms are reviewed to meet professional industry standards. Dress code requirements are addressed before the start of classes.
- Able to pay attention to detail
- Completed or enrolled in Biology preferred
- Strong hand-eye coordination with fine motor skills and stamina
- Ability to work accurately/follow procedures to an industry-standard
- Comfort with "Playing Patient", all classmates will learn their skills on each other before getting real world experience in Internships.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percent	90%-100%	80%-89%	70%-79%	60%-69%	59% or below

CREDITS ISSUED BY WEST-MEC

- High School - 6 elective credits (3 elective credits per year; high school credits are awarded each semester)
- This program satisfies the AZ University's admissions requirements. (AZ Board of Regents CTE/Fine Arts credit)

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Revised 09/12/2025