



DENTAL

Dental Assisting

The High School Dental Assisting Program introduces students to the skills, knowledge, and professional standards required to support licensed dentists and hygienists in a clinical setting. Students learn both the science of oral health and the practical skills of chairside assistance, preparing them for immediate entry-level employment or further education in dental and health sciences.

Location: Paterson STEAM High School

Courses

Medical Terminology (Grade 10)

Medical terminology course is designed to introduce students to basic medical language and terminology that they would need to enter a health care field. Emphasis will be placed on definitions, proper usage, spelling, and pronunciation. Students will employ a systematic word-building approach to master the complex terminology that pertains to body systems, anatomy, physiology, medical processes and procedures as well as a variety of diseases. The course includes but is not limited to terms related to anatomy of the human body, functions of health and disease, and the use of language in processing medical/dental records as well as claim forms.

Dental Assisting I (Grade 11)

The Dental Assisting I course will introduce students to the field of dentistry through study and hands-on lab work. They will familiarize themselves with the profession of the dental assistant, dental ethics, dentistry and the law, general anatomy and physiology, oral embryology and histology, head/neck anatomy, landmarks of the face and oral cavity, primary and permanent dentition, tooth morphology, dental caries, periodontal disease, preventive dentistry, nutrition, oral pathology, microbiology, and disease transmission and infection control.

Anatomy and Physiology (Grade 11)

Human Anatomy and Physiology is the study of the structure and function of the human body. This course follows a sequential development of the major body systems in an organized and structured curriculum. The course is designed to give the students a selective overview of human anatomical structure and an analysis of human physiological principles. Labs will include slide work, dissection of various animals and studies of the human skeleton, muscular, nervous, and sensory organs. The course will also use computer simulated dissection. The study of the structure and function of the human body is necessary as a basic health science prerequisite. This will prepare the student for all other basic science and clinical courses. This introductory course includes lectures and lab components of Anatomy and Physiology One. It will also include basic chemistry and microbiology. Topics include characteristics of life; levels of organization, chemistry, biochemistry, cells, tissues, and the body systems. Aspects of disease and treatments will also be included.

Dental Assisting II (Grade 12)

This course is for students to learn the content of PSI AP Computer Science Principles and be prepared to take the AP Exam. It focuses on the fundamental understanding of computers, networking, data conversion and use, and life in the digital world. Programming skills will be deepened throughout this course. Topics that students will be introduced to include an introduction to programming, operators & logic, algorithms and control structures, lists, functions and procedures, the global impact of computing, bits and bytes, data and privacy, graphics and images, and the Internet and networking.

Skills Gained

- Effective communication and patient care
- Organization and time management in a clinical setting
- Knowledge of infection control and sterilization practices
- Competence in handling dental instruments and materials
- Understanding of professional ethics and workplace safety

Careers

Dental Assisting (Entry Level), Dental Hygienist, Dental Laboratory Technician, Dentist.