Health Care Career Pathway

Dental Assistant

The Job Corps Dental Assistant career training program takes 8 to 12 months to complete and requires training in the following subject areas:

- **Radiation Health and Safety (RHS)**
  - Expose and evaluate (intraoral, extraoral)
  - Process
  - Mount/label
  - Radiation safety – patient
  - Radiation safety – operator

- **Infection Control (ICE)**
  - Patient and dental health care worker education
  - Prevent cross-contamination and transmission
  - Maintain aseptic conditions
  - Perform sterilization procedures
  - Environmental asepsis
  - Occupational safety

- **General Chairside (GC)**
  - Collecting and recording of clinical data
  - Chairside dental procedures
  - Chairside dental materials (preparation, manipulation, application)
  - Lab materials and procedures
  - Patient education and oral health management
  - Prevention and management of emergencies
  - Office management procedures

**Credentials:**

Students who complete a Job Corps training program are eligible to receive the following credentials:

- RHS certification
- ICE certification
- Individuals who pass the RHS and ICE exams earn two separate certificates of competency. Thirty-six states allow dental assistants to be employed with RHS and/or ICE certificates. Other states have other requirements.
- GC certification

**Eligibility requirements:**

Before completing a Dental Assistant training program, students should:

- Have the basic math and reading skills necessary to perform the job.
- Complete the core curriculum and pass all written and performance tests.
- To achieve GC certification, students must have a high school diploma, CPR certification, and at least 3,500 hours of experience as a dental assistant.

**Average length of training/work experience:**

- 8 to 12 months for RHS and ICE certifications

The salary range for various careers as a Dental Assistant is:

$29,000 to $43,000/year