This program teaches four-handed dentistry and lab skills, prevention techniques, operative treatment, and specialty areas. The course provides preparation for students interested in dental careers such as a Certified Dental Assistant, Registered Dental Assistant, dental hygienist, lab technician, x-ray technician, and dentist. A clinical experience in a dental office is a required part of the program.

Related Job Titles
Dental Hygienist
Dental Laboratory Technician
Dental Receptionist

Skills You Will Learn
- CPR
- Taking patient’s medical history and vital signs
- Mixing dental materials
- Passing instruments and suctioning
- Pouring laboratory models
- Taking and developing dental x-rays
- Sterilization of instruments
- Performing instrument set-ups
- Showing patients how to brush/floss
- Dentrix software
- Skills and techniques used as a Registered Dental Assistant

Preferred Skills for Career Field:
**You should prefer:**
- Activities involving direct contact with people
- Activities involving processes and machines

**You should be able to:**
- Use a keyboard for data entry
- Perceive detail in objects, pictures and charts
- Follow specific instructions
- Communicate well, put people at ease
- Display professional manner and appearance

Special Requirements
Certain functions can only be performed by a registered dental assistant under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

Career Ladder
Students may climb the health career ladder by passing challenging state and national board examinations. The licensure options include:
- NJ State Dental Radiology License
- X-Ray License
- Dental Assisting National Board
  - Certified Dental Assistant
- NJ State Dental Board Expanded Functions License

Some dental assistants go for additional college level education and become dental hygienists.

Continuing Education
Ocean County Vocational Technical School
Camden County College
Middlesex County College
Rowan College at Burlington County
University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ

Upon successful completion of this two-year program, students will have the opportunity to take a portion of the DANB CDA exam.