

Washington State Department of Personnel  
Class Specification

**DENTAL ASSISTANT 1**

294E

**Definition:**

Positions in this class are unlicensed, work under the close supervision (as defined in WAC 246-817-510) of a dentist, and assist dentists or dental students in the treatment of patients.

**Distinguishing Characteristics:**

Positions work under direct supervision and perform routine dental assistant duties such as prepare patients, operate equipment, sterilize instruments, mix amalgam, and assist in the performance of expanded dental duties.

**Typical Work:**

Seats patient, adjusts chair, and prepares patient for dentist; takes X-rays of patients and develops, mounts, and files film and plates;

Operates water, air and evacuating equipment;

Sterilizes and prepares tray of instruments; fills, drains, and cleans sterilizer; folds and lays out linens;

Prepares and mixes amalgam, composite, cement, and medicaments for restorations; mixes pumice for prophylaxis; prepares impression materials; cleans and polishes dentures;

Prepares anesthetic syringes;

Maintains dental records and files; makes dental charts; maintains inventory and requisitions supplies;

Assists faculty and Dental Assistant 2's in various fundamental four-handed techniques, such as correct chair positioning and coordinated placement and removal of rubber dam;

Instruct patients in home care;

Cleans and maintains dental chair and equipment;

Performs other work as required.

**Knowledge and Abilities:**

Knowledge of: dental routine, terms, instruments, materials, and procedures; techniques of dental X-ray; dental charting; types of sterilization and sterile techniques; record keeping.

Ability to: operate dental X-ray unit; develop, mount, and file films and plates; make impression material for dentures and partial plates; polish and clean dentures; follow written and oral instructions; stand for long periods of time.

**Legal Requirement(s):**

There may be instances where individual positions must have additional licenses or certification. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure the appropriate licenses/certifications are obtained for each position.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

Six months of experience in assisting a dentist.

Completion of a vocational course in dental assistance work may be substituted for experience.

OR

Equivalent education/experience.

**Class Specification History**

New class, consolidates 6470 Dental Assistant I and 54100 Dental Assistant 1; adopted May 10, 2007, effective July 1, 2007.