

Summary of Distinctions Between Dental Assisting I and Dental Assisting II Programs

Institutions offering basic dental assisting programs (designated by ABHES as DAI) may choose to offer a more advanced-level of dental assisting program (designated by ABHES as DAII). The substantive additional requirements for DAII programs are outlined below.

Clinical Sciences

DAII programs are required to offer instruction in:

Evidence-based techniques

DAII.A.1. C.3. Graduates will comprehend and employ evidence-based techniques for workplace decisions.

Self-assessment

DAII.A.1. C.4. Graduates will practice the ability for self-assessment and correct problems that are identified.

Isolation Methods

DAII programs are required to offer instruction in:

Dental dams

DAII.A.1.L.3. Graduates will place and remove dental dams.

Cotton rolls

DAII.A.1.L.4. Graduates will place and remove cotton rolls.

Armamentarium assembly

DAII.A.1.L.6. Graduates will assemble an armamentarium for placement of a dental dam.

Pain Management

DAII programs are required to offer instruction in:

Topical anesthetics

DAII.A.1.O.3. Graduates will understand and explain the method for placement of topical anesthetics in accordance with state law.

Maxillary and mandibular arch injections

DAII.A.1.O.7. Graduates will locate and describe the sites for maxillary and mandibular arch injections.

Supplemental anesthesia techniques

DAII.A.1.O.8. Graduates will compare and contrast the supplemental techniques for anesthetic administration.

Nitrous oxide administration

DAII.A.1.O.9. Graduates will explain the need and method for nitrous oxide administration, and methods for monitoring its administration.

Anesthesia complications

DAII.A.1.O.10. Graduates will list and describe the treatment for and recognition of complications arising from anesthesia administration.

Patient Management and Care Procedures

DAII programs are required to offer instruction in:

Administration of fluoride

DAII.A.1.P.4. Graduates will assess and recognize the indications for fluoride use and proper placement in accordance with state law, and administer to the patient when necessary.

Dental Sciences: Pharmacology of the Oral Cavity

DA.A.1.S.2. In addition to the following DAI standard: *Courses emphasize drugs relevant to the practice of dentistry*, DAII programs must also provide instruction in the following: *Modes of administration, mechanisms of action, biotransformation, excretion, drug interactions, and side effects.*

Dental Sciences: Nutrition

DA.A.1.S.5. In addition to the following DAI standard: *Courses in nutrition consist of concepts for diet assessment*, DAII programs must also provide instruction in the following: *Concepts for patient management for developing a comprehensive disease program to treat individual patients.*

Dental Sciences: Pathology of the Oral Cavity

DA.A.1.S.6. In addition to the following DAI standard: *Pathology courses integrate both basic and clinical sciences and applies the knowledge gained to the recognition and understanding of deviation from normal. The components of oral and general pathology may be addressed in one core course or integrated into several courses throughout the curriculum. The depth and scope of the curriculum may vary based upon the influences of the program level and academic setting.*

DAII courses must provide instruction in the following:

Personal health and disease and its relation to optimal function

Dental Sciences: Interpret Diagnosis

DAII programs must offer instruction in:

DA.A.1.S.6.(c) *The identification of a specific disease, including dental caries. Interpreting the diagnostics includes: clinical identification, radiographic interpretation, historical data (medical and dental), laboratory studies, surgical intervention, therapeutic application, and the differential diagnosis (Note: only a dentist can diagnose.)*

Externship and/or Internal Clinical Experiences

DA.A.2.(a). DAII programs are required to offer a minimum of 300 clock hours for externships.

DA.A.2.(c). DAII programs are required to ensure that a clinical externship employ a qualified preceptor who meets the program supervision requirements described in Section B of the DAII standards if the program does not employ a supervisor on site.

DA.A.2.(d). In addition to the following DAI standard: *Upon completion of the clinical externship, students demonstrate entry-level proficiency in all areas of the curriculum*, DAII programs must require students to: *Fulfill requirements in accordance with distributions for general and specialty areas and level of complexity.*

Program Supervision, Faculty, and Consultation

DAII programs are required to employ a program supervisor who:

DA.B.1. (b) Possesses a baccalaureate degree, or is currently enrolled and making satisfactory progress toward completion of a baccalaureate program (by January 1, 2014, the program supervisor will have earned at least a baccalaureate degree).

DA.B.1. (c) Has a background in educational methods, testing and evaluation.

DA.B.1. (d) Has experience in the field as an educator, including administrative functions, of a dental assisting program.

DAII programs are required to employ faculty who:

DA.B.2.(b). Have an earned baccalaureate degree or will be working toward completing a baccalaureate degree program in a timely manner.