UNIVERSITY OF JUSTICE

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Dental Assisting Degree Plan

Duration: 2 Academic Years / 4 Semesters (Fall I, Spring I, Fall II, Spring II)	**Total Credits: 66 SCH**
DEPARTMENT: Dental Medicine	**CREDENTIAL: Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)**
Delivery: Blended (Online Didactic / On-Campus Labs)	**Clinical Externship: 320 Total Hours**

1. Executive Summary and Institutional Rationale

The University of Justice offers the 2-Year Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Dental Assisting to address expanding clinical, managerial, surgical, and orthodontic demands in dental practices, public health centers, oral surgery suites, and specialized clinics [cite: 30]. Built strictly in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) guidelines and standard TCCNS/WECM course numbering conventions, this expanded 66-SCH degree integrates general education core foundations, front-desk office administration, back-office chairside assisting, 3D CBCT digital radiography, specialized Orthodontic Assisting, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical Assisting, preventive expanded functions, and 320 hours of supervised clinical externship [cite: 30, 31].

Following the preferred operational curriculum sequence, students master **Front Desk Administration & Dental Office Software** in Year 1 (Semester 1) before progressing to **Back Office Clinical Chairside Assisting** in Year 1 (Semester 2) [cite: 30, 31]. Year 2 delivers advanced specialty practice featuring standalone course modules in **Orthodontic Assisting (DNTA 2315)** and **Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical Assisting (DNTA 2340)**, preventive functions, dental pharmacology, DANB board certification preparation, and two clinical externship rotations [cite: 30, 31].

2. Program Learning Outcomes (PLOS)

- **Front Office & EHR Practice Administration (DNTA 1349 & DNTA 2360):** Execute Dentrix software management, patient scheduling, electronic chart entry, CDT procedure coding, and insurance claims processing [cite: 30].
- **Back Office Chairside & General Assisting (DNTA 1301 & DNTA 1305):** Demonstrate expert four-handed dental assisting, instrument transfer, dental unit maintenance, ergonomics, and medical asepsis [cite: 30].
- **Orthodontic Clinical Assisting (DNTA 2315):** Assist in cephalometric analysis, archwire placement, bracket placement, elastomer ligation, band fitting, and orthodontic retainer fabrication [cite: 30].
- **Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical Assisting (DNTA 2340):** Master sterile surgical field setup, IV sedation monitoring, nitrous oxide monitoring, surgical extraction assisting, bone graft tray prep, and post-operative surgical patient care [cite: 30].
- **Digital Radiography & Radiation Safety (DNTA 1415):** Produce ALARA-compliant intraoral, extraoral, panoramic, and 3D CBCT imaging with precise digital sensor placement [cite: 30].
- **Preventive Functions & Dental Materials (DNTA 2307 & DNTA 1315):** Perform coronal polishing, pit/fissure sealant applications, topical fluoride treatments, and dental material mixing/fabrication [cite: 30].
- **Clinical Practicum & Professional Board Preparation (DNTA 1360, DNTA 2361 & DNTA 2235):** Complete 320 supervised clinical externship hours across private and specialized dental clinics and pass DANB (RHS, ICE, GC) and RDA national board examinations [cite: 30].

3. Admissions Requirements

- **Educational Background:** High School Diploma or GED equivalent with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 [cite: 30].
- **Prerequisites:** High school Biology or Chemistry (or passing score on institutional science placement assessment) [cite: 30].
- **Background & Health Clearance:** Comprehensive criminal background check, 10-panel drug screening, and physical health evaluation [cite: 30].
- **Immunization Verification:** Complete Hepatitis B series (with titer proof), MMR, Varicella, Tdap, and annual Tuberculosis clearance [cite: 30].

4. Comprehensive 2-Year (4-Semester) A.A.S. Curriculum Structure (66 Credits)

The degree program spans 4 full semesters over 2 academic years (Fall I, Spring I, Fall II, Spring II) without requiring summer sessions. Total Credit Requirement: 66 SCH (15 SCH general education core + 51 SCH dental technical/clinical major) [cite: 31].

YEAR 1: SEMESTER 1 (FALL I) — FRONT DESK ADMINISTRATION & FOUNDATIONS (15 CREDITS)

ENGL 1301: Composition I — **3 Credits**
Development of foundational writing skills, academic essay structure, critical reading, and professional communications [cite: 31].

DNTA 1311: Dental Anatomy, Histology, & Physiology — **3 Credits**
In-depth study of tooth morphology, head and neck anatomy, cranial nerves, occlusion, salivary glands, and oral tissue histology [cite: 31].

DNTA 1349: Dentrix Software Operations for Dental Assistants — **3 Credits**
Front office software operations, digital periodontal charting, patient appointment scheduling, ledger management, and treatment planning [cite: 31].

DNTA 2360: Dental Codes, Billing & Practice Management — **3 Credits**
Application of Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure codes, insurance claim filing, pre-authorizations, copay processing, and revenue management [cite: 31].

DNTA 1245: Dental Jurisprudence, Ethics & EHR — **3 Credits**
State dental practice acts, legal scope of practice, informed consent, HIPAA privacy compliance, and electronic health record administration [cite: 31].

YEAR 1: SEMESTER 2 (SPRING I) — BACK OFFICE & CHAIRSIDE CLINICAL ASSISTING (17 CREDITS)

BIOL 2401: Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab — **4 Credits**
Comprehensive study of human cellular structure, tissue types, skeletal system, muscular mechanics, and nervous system control [cite: 31].

DNTA 1301: Dental Instrumentation & Equipments — **3 Credits**
Identification, classification, assembly, ergonomics, sterilization, and operational safety of handheld dental instruments and operatory equipment [cite: 31].

DNTA 1305: Dental Chairside Procedures I & Infection Control — **3 Credits**
Principles of four-handed dentistry, ergonomics, instrument transfer, dental unit operation, medical asepsis, CDC/OSHA sterilization, and PPE [cite: 31].

DNTA 1415: Dental Radiography & Radiation Safety — **4 Credits**
Theory and physics of X-radiation, ALARA safety, bisecting/paralleling techniques, digital sensor placement, panoramic imaging, and mounting [cite: 31].

PSYC 2301: General Psychology — **3 Credits**
Study of human behavior, stress management, interpersonal relationships, therapeutic patient interaction, and clinical communication [cite: 31].

YEAR 2: SEMESTER 3 (FALL II) — ORTHODONTICS, SURGERY, MATERIALS & PRACTICUM I (18 CREDITS)

MATH 1314: College Algebra & Medical Dosage Mathematics — **3 Credits**
Algebraic functions, linear equations, concentration ratios, metric conversions, and pharmacological dosage calculations [cite: 31].

DNTA 2315: Orthodontic Assisting & Appliance Techniques — **3 Credits**
Orthodontic diagnostic records, cephalometric tracing, bracket/band seating, archwire selection, elastomeric ligation, retainers, and patient oral hygiene [cite: 31].

DNTA 2340: Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical Assisting — **3 Credits**
Surgical sterile field setup, IV sedation monitoring assistance, surgical extractions, impactions, biopsy prep, bone grafting, and post-op care [cite: 31].

DNTA 1315: Dental Materials & Laboratory Techniques — **3 Credits**
Composition, mixing, and application of gypsums, alginate impressions, dental cements, restorative composites, amalgams, acrylics, and custom tray fabrication [cite: 31].

DNTA 2307: Preventive Dentistry & Expanded Functions — **3 Credits**
Coronal polishing techniques, fluoride treatments, pit/fissure sealant application, caries prevention, and dental hygiene instruction [cite: 31].

DNTA 1360: Clinical Dental Assistant Practicum I (160 Hours) Supervised 160-hour initial clinical externship rotation in general dentistry facilities under clinical preceptor evaluation [cite: 31].	**3 Credits**

YEAR 2: SEMESTER 4 (SPRING II) — PHARMACOLOGY, BOARD PREP & PRACTICUM II (11 CREDITS)

PHIL 2306: Introduction to Bioethics Ethical reasoning, moral philosophy, patient autonomy, informed consent, healthcare equity, and professional ethics in dentistry [cite: 31].	**3 Credits**
DNTA 1251: Dental Pharmacology & Emergency Management Study of local anesthetics, nitrous oxide conscious sedation, dental pharmacotherapeutics, medical emergencies in the dental office, BLS, and CPR protocols [cite: 31].	**3 Credits**
DNTA 2235: DANB Board Review & Career Seminar Targeted preparation for national certification exams (DANB RHS/ICE/GC and RDA exams), resume building, portfolio preparation, and mock interviews [cite: 31].	**2 Credits**
DNTA 2361: Clinical Dental Assistant Practicum II (160 Hours) Advanced 160-hour clinical externship rotation in specialized dental practices, hospital operating rooms, or community clinics [cite: 31].	**3 Credits**

5. Tuition and Comprehensive Cost Structure

Transparent pricing covering tuition, laboratory consumables, dental typodonts, software suites, and technical infrastructure across the 66-SCH A.A.S. degree [cite: 32].

Direct Institutional Costs (Billed Directly)

Expense Category	Cost (USD)	Description
Tuition ($450/credit x 66 credits)	$29,700.00	Covers all 66 didactic, laboratory, software, and externship credits [cite: 32].
Institutional Program Fee	$1,800.00	Includes student services, library access, technology fees, and LMS infrastructure across 4 terms [cite: 32].
Dental Lab and Consumables Fee	$1,650.00	Covers impression materials, orthodontic pliers/wire, surgical trays, PPE, sealants, and typodonts [cite: 32].
Dentrix, Imaging & EHR Software Fee	$450.00	Access to Dentrix training software, digital imaging suites, and 3D CBCT simulation engines [cite: 32].
Total Direct Institutional Costs	**$33,600.00**	**Total billed directly by the University of Justice [cite: 32].**

Estimated Indirect Expenses (Out-of-Pocket / Third-Party)

Note: These items are not billed by the university but are required for program participation [cite: 32].

Expense Item	Estimated Cost (USD)	Notes
Textbooks and Digital Resources	$700.00	Required bundles (Dental Assisting, Ortho, Oral Surgery, Radiography) [cite: 32].
Uniforms & Safety Eyewear	$250.00	Clinical scrubs, protective eyewear/face shield, closed-toe shoes [cite: 32].
Background Check & Drug Screen	$120.00	Mandatory for clinical externship clearance [cite: 32].
Immunizations / Health Exam	$200.00 - $400.00	Dependent on personal health insurance coverage [cite: 32].
DANB/RDA National Exam Fees	$375.00 - $550.00	Radiation Health & Safety (RHS), Infection Control (ICE), and GC exams [cite: 32].
Total Estimated Indirect Costs	**$1,645.00 - $2,020.00**	**Estimated out-of-pocket expenses [cite: 32].**

GRAND TOTAL ESTIMATED DEGREE INVESTMENT: $35,245.00 - $35,620.00 [cite: 32]

6. Financial Aid and Payment Options

- **Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Student Loans, and Federal Work-Study [cite: 32].
- **Institutional Monthly Payment Plans:** Interest-free monthly installment options spread across each semester [cite: 32].
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):** State workforce development grants for eligible allied health candidates [cite: 32].
- **Veterans' Educational Benefits:** Approved for GI Bill® and VA educational funding streams [cite: 32].

7. Professional Certification & Licensure Pathways

- **CDA (DANB):** Certified Dental Assistant credential through the Dental Assisting National Board [cite: 32].
- **RHS & ICE (DANB):** Radiation Health and Safety & Infection Control Examination certifications [cite: 32].
- **RDA Credentials:** Registered Dental Assistant registration through state dental licensing boards [cite: 32].
- **CPFDA (DANB):** Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant credential pathway [cite: 32].

INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:
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