

## Dental Assistant Spring 2014 Student SLO Report

### 1. What did you like about this program?

#### Text Response

that we are able to get out into the working field and learn hands on skills, that it is a smaller class size

i liked how the teachers would come or pull you aside after class to make sure and understand what is going on if your grade isn't very high. I also liked how its mostly hands on in class and out of class.

You really get hands on experience and jump right in to the working field through clinicals. The teachers are Certified Dental Assistants and are very helpful throughout the program.

I loved how everyone was so willing to help and how understanding they were at all times. The instructors are absolutely great and I really enjoyed my experience here. I also liked how everything is so hands on.

Hands on. Good equipment . Nice and helpful teachers

Teachers were awesome. Learned alot. Loved going to clinicals.

All of the hands on parts of it really helped me to be confident in my work as well as the lecture portion but I enjoyed the hands on portion

I liked that the program offered so much information about the profession. The way the program was set up was very helpful for my learning and was very organized. I liked that we learned about the topics at the beginning of the week and then did hands on activities towards the end of the week, it helped me have a better understanding of what we were doing then. The way the program was taught was good and both instructors are very knowledgeable and cared about our experience.

I liked the people I met, the teachers, and being able to go out to clinicals since the beginning of the first couple of weeks.

All the hands on activities that we are able to participate in.

I liked the teachers, making dental models, clinicals, and all of the labs. I like all of the hands on stuff that was essential to learn in becoming a dental assistant.

I really loved the teachers. The hands on stuff was great too. Sue and Barb were so willing to help out, they really were there to make sure that you succeeded.

It was a one year course. The teachers were great. Lots of hands on experience & that is how I learn.

I loved the teachers and the clinical experiences

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

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### 2. What would you change about this program?

#### Text Response

that we are required to take a oral communications class. it is unnecessary and most of the skills learned are acquired through classes in the program.

I would change some of the ways the teachers handle somethings like grading I felt was a little unfair for certain projects. things where begin approved for one person and if another student had the same thing the teacher would mark it wrong.

More organization in some aspects of classroom work and activities.

I would change how long the classes are because some of the activities and classes seemed to be drug out to suit the timing.

Radiograhpy class.. Have lectures before the quiz. Most people can't learn by teaching themselves.

It was difficult to have a job. Most of the girls didn't have jobs and I did and it was super hard with class times

Maybe more visuals of the things we talk about and more check outs with the teachers in lab, so not only doing something once and being done with it but doing it over and over so that it stays in our mind

I would have liked more hands on activites in labs, some of the time we did busy work or things that I thought really were not necessary. Some of these things just took time away from hands on activties that we should have been working on instead and skills that we will be using everyday in office.

I would change the clinical hours (days).

Make it a two year associate degree level program instead of graduating with a diploma.

I would remove the none essentials such as speech, ethics, the skull project (this is not an art class) and possibly the office management class unless they let you mess around more hands on with the software and charting and scheduling patients, they really could improve that class.

I think that there is not a lot to change. I think that we could spend more time naming instruments and on tray setups, but otherwise I think it was great!

I felt like we were pushed so fast throught the program at times that it was hard to remember chapters from previous weeks. It would be good to constantly go over things from previous weeks. Keep repeating things. Make labs more structured and have one day a month to have an open lab.

I am not sure I can think of anything I could change.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

### 3. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned effective communication skills.	0	0	1	8	5	14

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### 4. Provide any comments you have on effective communication skills you learned.

#### Text Response

I learned how to correctly speak in the dental office and how to go about answering specific questions patients may have.

Although the class Oral and Interpersonal Communications is required for this program, I did not find it ver effective because communication is strongly stressed and elaborated in the program itself.

My communication skills have really improved after being in this program. Having clinicals, presenting in class, and working with people everyday has really gotten me more comfortable and has helped me be more professionals with my communication skills.

I have learned how to communicate with children in the dental offince.

Throughout the classes in this program we learned about different types of communication depending on different situations. The Oral and Interpersonal Communications class was a waste of TIME AND MONEY! I believe some type of speech class/writing class should be required, however if you have taken those two calsses you should NOT have to take this class. It is basically a repeat of any speech class and written communcations class as a combo and I feel I got the same education throughout the dental calsses as I did in the Oral Interpersonal class. I feel I wasted my time, effort and money.  
dental jargon.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6

### 5. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to apply mathematical concepts.	0	1	7	3	3	14

### 6. Provide any comments you have on mathematical concepts you learned.

#### Text Response

math is not really a big concern in dentistry.

Simple math is required for this program and occasionally proportions.

This program didn't deal with many mathematical concepts. I did get more familiar with angles and geometry when dealing with radiographs. I also used measurment skills when trimming models.

Some simple math was implimented throughout the courses.

comes into play when we trim our models.

We didn't really use math for much of anything in this program.

We didn't use a lot of math

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

### 7. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned how to transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.	0	0	2	9	3	14

### 8. Provide any comments you have on transferring social and natural science theories into practical applications.

#### Text Response

Clinicals really involves all of these theories.

The ethics class really helped me with social and economical concepts. During this course I really learned about economical and social problems, concerns, and difficulties that are related to dentistry.

dental anatomy.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 9. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned critical thinking skills.	0	0	0	10	4	14

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### 10. Provide any comments you have on critical thinking skills you learned.

#### Text Response

Patient care is the key component in the dental field and the teachers and clinical sites help further develop these skills.

Every course got me to think more critically and always had me wanting to improve my skills and knowledge.

I was provided with the basic knowledge to be able to act in many different situations. time management.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

### 11. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to use technology effectively.	0	1	3	6	4	14

### 12. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about using technology effectively.

#### Text Response

technology is a huge part of advancing modern dentistry. like digital radiography for example. Modern technology (use of computers and radiographs) is a main component in the dental field. Dental chairside, radiography and dental materials gave me the opportunity to become familiar with different technology. Working with different appliances, x-ray units, and dental material devices such as the trimmer really gave me the skills to handle technology in a safe efficient way.

This program is not up to date on their software. In office, digital radiographs are taken. No one processes films the way we have to. I know the program invested in this for next years students, I just wish I would have gotten the opportunity to play with it as well. Also, some type of class should be taught on the different dental softwares such as softdent, and eaglesoft. We will be needing to use these in our place of employment and we did not get experience with it in the program.

we haven't done much with computers.

I feel like we could have spent more time practicing things in the dental computer systems, and done a little more extensive training on digital radiography. At least taking a half mouth on a mannequin or something like that with the equipment available.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6

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### 13. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to value myself and work ethically with others in a diverse population.	0	0	0	8	6	14

### 14. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about valuing yourself and working ethically with others in a diverse population.

#### Text Response

Every clinical site serves different people, especially in rural areas.

I really learned alot about my self and others from working with different people throught the program. Clinical experiences and the ethics class was a big part of this. I learned a lot about doing what right for not only the patients but for the whole office.

I really learned how important my job as an assistant is and how important teamwork is n the dental field.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 15. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.	0	0	0	11	3	14

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**16. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about incorporating the importance of sustainability in decisions you make.**

Text Response

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	0

**17. As a result of this program, I learned to:**

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform a variety of advanced supportive dental procedures.	0	0	0	6	8	14

**18. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.**

Text Response

would have loved to practice them more than once in labs, repetition helps I learned about so many skills that are needed in the dental office and I really feel like I got a lot out of this program in such a short period of time.

The chairside experience was helpful in this aspect. Being able to get out in clinical and get your feet wet is important to gain experience and see if your enjoying the profession you have chosen.

expose radiographs, trim models, set up and take down operatories, various procedures, instruments, and terminology.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

**19. As a result of this program, I learned to:**

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
manage infection and hazard control.	0	0	0	3	11	14

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### 20. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

The 1 week infection control course really helped but I would have liked to go over it more throught out the program. I would have liked to go over the different materials, products, anything hands on dealing with infection control.

It is a constant reminder.

This was drilled into our heads right from the begining, as it should be!  
we had one whole class on just that.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

### 21. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
produce diagnostic intraoral and extraoral radiographs on a variety of patients.	0	0	1	4	9	14

### 22. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

would have loved to work with digital more than just seeing how it works

Radiography was a very good course, I got a lot of information out of it and the hands on activities we did help me develop the skills I need.

We got a lot of practice in school and the teachers were very helpful.

I would have liked to be able to use the digital equipment a little more, as most offices now are digital.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4



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### 23. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform advanced dental laboratory procedures.	0	0	0	3	11	14

### 24. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

All the information that we covered in the course helped me when it came to hands on activities. I would have liked to practice trimming models more because that is a skill that I feel I have not completely gotten yet.

Love this part of the program.

We did a lot with many different materials, which was great so we know what we are dealing with when we get out into the field of work.

we made models, mothguards, whitening trays, and costum trays.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

### 25. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
demonstrate professional behaviors, ethics and appearance.	0	0	0	4	10	14

### 26. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

The ethics class really helped me know that being a dental assistant is not all about chairside duties. It is all about doing the right thing for the patient and the office.

we had a clinical attire.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

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### 27. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform dental office business procedures.	0	1	4	6	3	14

### 28. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

wish we would have actually used dental programming more

I learned more about office information but I would have liked to go over it more. I don't feel like I know all of the office skills that a dental assistant should know just because this class was only 7 weeks.

Only one office had me in the reception area and that was only for a couple of hours.

Like stated earlier, experience with the different programs dental offices run would be very beneficial.

we brushed over charting and software a little.

I think we could have spent a little bit more time on some of the computer stuff in the dental office.

We did not spend a lot of time practicing this and I think we could have

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

### 29. CONCLUSION - Please use this space to share any other feedback, comments, or suggestions about your experience at Western Technical College.

#### Text Response

i feel that the parking was horrible and maybe something could get done about that

I am so happy that I chose the path that I did at deciding to come to Western. I love it here.

My experience at Western Technical College has been great, a few hick ups here & there but overall it was a great experience and i've learned lots from it.

My experience at Western has been good. All staff that I have met or interacted with have all been positive and helpful. All resources were available for me when I needed it and I never had an issue with finding what I needed.

It was fun, I learned a lot. I feel some things were just filler like the speech class and the skull project or presenting on body systems which has nothing to do with dentistry and we have all taken what eight or more years of health classes teaching us that but over all it was a great program and I learned a lot and I can't wait to get a job as a dental assistant.

Sue and Barb are amazing teachers and I loved this program. I feel very confident I can go out into the world and start my career with the skills I have learned in this program!

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6