

DENTAL ASSISTING

SPACE DESCRIPTION

The Dental Assisting Lab is designed to teach students the skills of assisting dentists, preparing patients for procedures, radiography, patient intake, sterilization, and infection control. While similar to a professional dental clinic, these spaces are only used for training. Proper circulation pathways of dirty and sterile materials must be considered. The laboratory requires specialized furnishings, equipment, and support spaces. The size of the space is determined by the number of dental chairs required. Each dental station must provide all tools, resources, and storage needed for instructional use. In addition, support spaces such as a Materials Lab, Sterilization, Panoramic X Ray and a Mechanical Room are required. A mock reception space should be included for students to practice patient intake procedures.

SPACE ACCREDITATION

This space must meet the requirements of the “Commission on Dental Accreditation”.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Infrastructure: The lab contains a significant amount of equipment with specific utility needs that must be carefully coordinated before construction begins to ensure the correct utilities are provided to the correct location.

Health and safety features: Handwashing stations and other sanitary measures are required. A dedicated Sterilization Room must have utilities for all necessary equipment including autoclaves and ultrasonic cleaners.

SPACE FREQUENCY

Plan for six dental chairs per each instructor.

GENERAL

Coordinate the need for wall blocking with the Panoramic Dental X-ray machine.

ACOUSTICS

The mechanical space will contain the air compressor and suction/ vacuum equipment which will need to be acoustically separated from the surrounding area.

MECHANICAL / PLUMBING

Provide sinks and drains as indicated in the space plan. Some sinks will require a plaster trap. Confirm locations with faculty. Water and drains are required for sterilization equipment. Coordinate the location of the emergency eyewash with faculty. An emergency shower may be considered.

Medical grade compressed air and suction/ vacuum equipment should be housed in the dedicated dental mechanical room and run to each exam station. The desired make and model of dental equipment should be selected by the faculty and provided to the design team before design begins, so the infrastructure needs can be properly coordinated. For some equipment, the location of utilities must be coordinated within a very tight tolerance. Equipment suppliers may need to be involved in both the design and construction of the space to ensure proper coordination.

ELECTRICAL & DATA

Electrical power requirements shall be based on selected dental equipment. 120/208V service typical.

Provide data outlets for selected equipment and at staff workstations.

LIGHTING

Recessed LED lighting throughout.

Individual overhead exam lights with adjustable swing arm.

TECHNOLOGY

Provide wireless capability throughout.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

Wood Doors with Hollow Metal Frame

ACCESSORIES AND EQUIPMENT

The following built-in equipment is required. To ensure proper coordination of infrastructure, the specific make and model of equipment should be selected by the faculty before the design process begins.

- Power-operated dental chair(s) for treating patients in a supine position
- Air and water syringe
- Adjustable dental light
- Dental radiography units
- Radiographic teaching mannequins
- Radiographic view boxes and/or monitors
- Digital equipment for image processing is preferred over darkrooms.
- Multiple sets of image receptor holding devices

FINISHES

Walls: Epoxy Paint system. 6" Vinyl wall base

Countertops: Epoxy Resin or solid surface, typical. Stainless steel countertops are required in the Sterilization Room.

Ceiling: Acoustical Panel Ceiling – Washable

Floor: Hard surface, easily cleanable flooring is required. Skid-proof medical flooring is preferred, but skid proof mats may be used as a substitute.

ADJACENCIES:

Ideally the lab should be near the departmental offices.

A general classroom should be nearby for lecture use, but it may be shared with other departments.

STERILIZATION

SPACE DESCRIPTION

Within the Dental Assisting Lab, the Sterilization room provides a location for students and faculty to store and clean equipment, maintaining a sterile environment for dental care. Sterilization must follow ANSI/AAMI ST79 standards, or standards adopted by Ivy Tech.

This space must remain sterile. Consideration must be given to where the space is located and access in order to maintain a sterile environment.

The Sterilization room must have dedicated space for storage and processing of both sterile and non-sterile tools and supplies. Special sterilization equipment such as autoclaves and ultrasonic cleaners are required. Verify needs with the program.

Provide the following:

- Wall and Base cabinets with stainless steel countertop
- Autoclaves and ultrasonic cleaners
- Pass-thru counters for clean and dirty supplies