



DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Associate Degree of Applied Science
Pima County Community College District

Tipsheet

1. Q. What is the mission of the Dental Laboratory Program?

- A. The mission of the Dental Laboratory Technology Program at Pima Community College is to serve all members of the community. The program will provide the opportunity for students to learn all aspects of dental prosthetic fabrication. This education will include a basic understanding of the principles of oral physiology as it relates to prosthetic fabrication and an introduction to the most current techniques. Techniques covered in this program will be geared to the standards of industry. Emphasis will be placed on instilling an appreciation and respect for all members of the dental health team. In addition, students will learn the ethical and life-long learning commitments that are involved in becoming a member of that team.

2. Q. What does a dental laboratory technician do?

- A. Dental laboratory technicians create dental prostheses-replacements for natural tooth structure, bone, and soft tissue. This work enables people who have lost some or all of their teeth to eat, chew, talk and smile. This work is carried out under the prescription of a licensed dentist.

3. Q. How will the dental laboratory technology program prepare me to be a dental laboratory technician?

- A. The Dental Laboratory Technology Program at Pima Community College prepares students to be Dental Technicians by introducing concepts of oral anatomy and physiology. Students will learn to use dental materials to create dental restorations and appliances. In addition, students will learn the safe operation of various types of dental equipment. Students will also be introduced to management techniques and infection control.

4. Q. What is the employment outlook?

- A. Increasing demand for cosmetic dentistry and the overall aging of the U.S. population indicate that the job outlook for dental laboratory technicians is excellent. For more information regarding Dental Laboratory Technology, visit the National Association of Dental Laboratories website. Information regarding employment outlook can be accessed through the PCC West Campus Career Center located in the Student Success Center.

5. Q Are there any specific skills/technical standards/physical demands in the profession?

A. Strong communication skills are needed in this occupation. Instructions are given both verbally and in writing. The Dental Technician must be able to remember and follow detailed instructions. Dental Laboratory work requires eyesight correctable to 20/20 and the ability to perform fine motor activities for extended periods of time.

6. Q. What degree will I earn?

A. Graduates will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree with a major in Dental Laboratory Technology. Graduates of the Dental Laboratory Technology program qualify to take the Recognized Graduate Exam of the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology. After two years of practical work experience, the Recognized Graduate can qualify to take the Certified Dental Technician practical exam given by the National Board of Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.

7. Q. Is this program accredited?

A. Yes. It is one of only 35 programs in the United States meeting the standards for accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The Pima Community College Dental Laboratory Technology program is the only program in a large geographic area.

8. Q. How long is the program?

A. This is a two-year program. Courses are only offered during the fall and winter semesters. Some students complete of their support courses during summer semester.

9. Q. What is an Advising Sheet?

A. The advising sheet is designed to provide you with additional information regarding program prerequisites, support courses, application procedures, and important phone numbers relative to the Health Professions Admissions office.

10.Q. Are classes held full-time or part-time?

A. Classes are scheduled on a full-time basis during traditional hours from Monday through Friday. First year students take dental laboratory courses in the afternoons (i.e. 1:00-6:00 p.m.). Second year students take dental laboratory courses in the morning (i.e. 7:00-11:00 a.m.).

11.Q Can I enter the program in the spring semester?

- A. YES! New students are accepted into the program in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Fall semester begins late August. Spring semester begins mid January.

12.Q. Are there any general education requirements or prerequisite courses that must be completed before I can apply to the program?

- A. There are no prerequisite courses required. You may complete the general education courses required for this degree after being admitted into the program.

13.Q. Is there an application deadline?

- A. Class positions are filled on a first come, first served basis. Call 206-6618 to find out if applications are still being accepted. Refer to the Advising Sheet for instructions on how to apply.

14.Q. What is the tuition for the entire program?

- A. In-state tuition is approximately \$2,400 for 47 credit hours of DLT courses and 23 credit hours of general education courses.

15.Q. Are there other costs?

- A. Textbooks, lab coats, tools, supplies, and the Recognized Graduate examination will cost an additional \$500 to \$700.

16.Q. Is financial aid available?

- A. Information regarding financial aid may be obtained at the West Campus Financial Aid office. Phone 206-6606.

17.Q. What is the curriculum of the Dental Laboratory Technology Program?

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| A. DLT 101 | Dental Morphology | 3 |
| DLT 102 | Nonmetallic Dental Materials | 3 |
| DLT 103 | Complete Dentures | 4 |
| DLT 104 | Dental Laboratory I | 4 |
| DLT 105 | Partial Denture construction | 4 |
| DLT 106 | Orthodontics and Maxillofacial Construction | 3 |
| DLT 108 | Laboratory Management | 3 |
| DLT 201 | Dental Laboratory II | 3 |
| DLT 202 | Dental Metallurgy I | 3 |
| DLT 203 | Fixed Bridgework | 4 |
| DLT 204 | Dental Laboratory III | 3 |
| DLT 206 | Dental Ceramics | 4 |
| DLT 207 | Advanced Dental Laboratory Technology | 6 |

18.Q. What immunizations are required?

- A. Pima Community College requires students be immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella (if born after January 1, 1957).

NOTE: It is highly recommended that all health care professionals are vaccinated against Hepatitis B. Students may also wish to be immunized against tetanus. Consult with your doctor.

19.Q. Is there any required health documentation?

- A. No

20.Q. Who should I contact with questions not answered in this tipsheet?

- A. Call Max Atwell, 206-3100. Please leave a message on his voice mail, or e-mail at matwell@west.pima.edu

21.Q. How can I apply?

- A. Call the Pima Community College Health Related Professions Hotline at 206-6618 and tell them you want to apply to the Dental Laboratory Technology Program.