

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS**

The DENTAL TECHNICIAN manufactures dentures, partial dentures, and other prosthetic dental appliances from acrylic plastic. Some employees in this class teach dental laboratory procedures and techniques to dental students.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES**

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1.**Dental Appliance Manufacture.** Typical tasks: receives patient work orders and accompanying mouth impression containing wax mounted premanufactured artificial teeth from a dentist or dental student; mixes plaster; places the waxed-up model into a flask and pours in plaster; seals flask to prepare it for boiling; boils flask then separates flask to flush melted wax; mixes plastic and pours plastic into flask; reassembles flask and allows plastic to harden; removes appliance from flask; cleans and polishes appliance; when necessary performs finishing techniques such as festooning gum texture using a dental burr.
- 2.**Dental Appliance Repair.** Typical tasks: relines dentures by grinding or flasking and packing to modify existing dentures to fit patient's current mouth structure; repairs or mends dental appliances using self-curing plastic; replaces broken teeth by drilling out old teeth and securing new teeth in appliance using cold cure adhesive.
- 3.**Teaching.** Typical tasks: demonstrates dental prosthetic laboratory techniques to dental students; teaches investing, boilout, and packing of dentures; on a one-to-one basis, instructs students on denture setup, waxup, finishing and polishing, repair, and adjustment.
- 4.**Miscellaneous.** Typical tasks: maintains and repairs dental laboratory machines and instruments; orders, issues, and maintains laboratory materials, supplies, and instruments; keeps records of supplies used and work performed; assists dentists and dental students with procedures such as setting teeth or solving unusual dental appliance requirements.

**RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS**

Employees in this class have daily in-person contact with dental instructors and students to receive prescriptions and models, answer questions regarding dental lab techniques, or demonstrate lab techniques to dental students. There is also daily contact with school support and administrative staff to discuss supplies, paperwork, and other lab related business. Employees in this class occasionally come in contact with patients of the dental school when assisting dentists or dental students with prosthetics and may meet with vendors of dental supplies or equipment as necessary.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED**

Employees in this class receive general supervision from dentists or dental school administrators. Work assignments are received from dental students or staff dentists. Methods, materials, and lab techniques are decided independently or under the general supervision of a licensed dentist. Prescribing dental students and dentists review work upon completion for quality, accuracy of construction, patient comfort, and conformance to patient needs.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Positions in this class are primarily found in hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities. They require the willingness to work in the environmental associated with the position's location and purpose. In addition, they require the willingness to maintain a sympathetic and understanding attitude towards mentally ill, mentally retarded, handicapped, and physically ill patients. Some positions require the willingness to work overtime, on-call, and/or rotating schedules.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)**

General knowledge of dental science and anatomy as they relate to the construction and fitting of dentures, partial dentures, and other prosthetic or orthopedic dental appliances.  
General knowledge of the instruments, materials, and equipment used to manufacture dental appliances.

Skill in the manufacture and repair of dentures and other prosthetic dental appliances.

Skill in mixing plaster, acrylic resins, plastics, and adhesives.

Skill in hand finishing techniques such as festooning gum texture in a dental appliance.

Ability to learn State Dental Prescription Law.

Ability to communicate orally in a professional manner with dental staff, students, and agency support staff.

Ability to maintain and repair dental laboratory machines and instruments.

Ability to order, issue, and maintain laboratory materials, supplies, and instruments.

Ability to keep accurate records.

Some positions in this class may require the following:

Ability to demonstrate laboratory techniques and procedures to dental students.

Ability to learn department and/or security procedures, rules and regulations.

**NOTE:** The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 7/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.