

What is a Dental Technician?

Dental laboratory technology is concerned with the construction of replacements for natural teeth which have been lost through disease or accident. The craftsman who is trained in this art is called a dental laboratory technician.

His relationship to the dentist is similar to that of the pharmacist to the physician or the optician to the eye specialist. His skill and knowledge make him an invaluable member of the dental health team because his services permit the dentist to devote more of his own time to chairside operative and restorative dentistry. The technician performs his duties under the guidance and instruction of the dentist.

Career Opportunities

The dental laboratory technician derives not only deep personal satisfaction from his contribution to the nation's dental health but also opportunities for good pay, security for the future, and many opportunities for advancement. The technician may work directly for a dentist in his dental office. Many, however, are employed in commercial dental laboratories which serve a large number of dentists. Most laboratory operators "came up from the bench" to own their businesses. There is currently a serious shortage of well-trained technicians, and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare estimates that, at the current rate of graduation from technical schools, there will be a shortage of 11,000 throughout the nation in 1980.

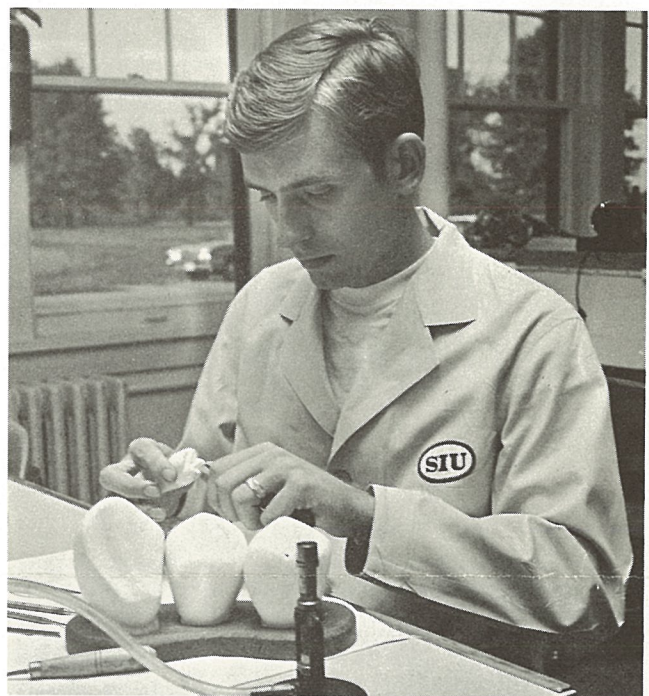
Accreditation

The Vocational-Technical Institute is one of the pioneers in college-level training for dental technicians. The associate degree program at VTI was one of the

first four in the United States fully accredited by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association. It is still the only accredited program in Illinois. Faculty members have many years of experience both in teaching and in the practice of dentistry and dental laboratory technology.

Qualifications of the Student

The person interested in dental laboratory technology as a career must either possess or develop a high degree of finger skill, enjoy creative work, and be eager to



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learn during his entire professional life. A high school background in chemistry, physics, and mathematics is extremely helpful to the student.

The Dental Laboratory Program

The VTI program in dental laboratory technology

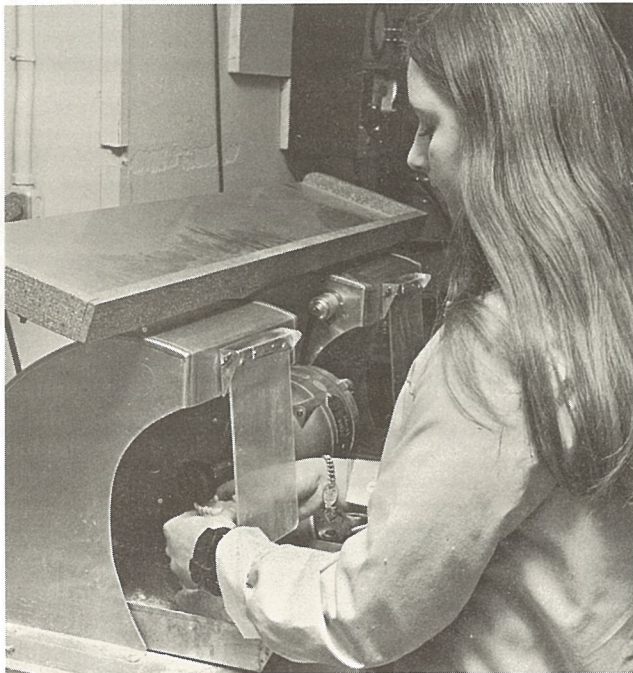
includes 18 months of intensive study covering all phases of the field. It was designed so that students receive not only technical training, but general education courses that will prepare them for a complex social and business world. The technical curriculum covers a complete study of dental morphology, fabrication of dental restorations and appliances in all the prosthetic phases of dentistry, dental material, professional ethics, and other related subjects. Approximately one-third of the curriculum consists of general education courses in communications, physical-chemical sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and business.

Scholarship and Financial Assistance

Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$650 per year are available to dental laboratory technology students through the American Fund for Dental Education, American Dental Association. Also, SIU maintains a student work program which permits students to earn a portion of the money necessary to support themselves in school. Full veteran's benefits are available.

Admission and Tuition

Admission requirements and tuition and fees are the same as those in force for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale at the time the student enters VTI. In addition to standard University fees, dental laboratory



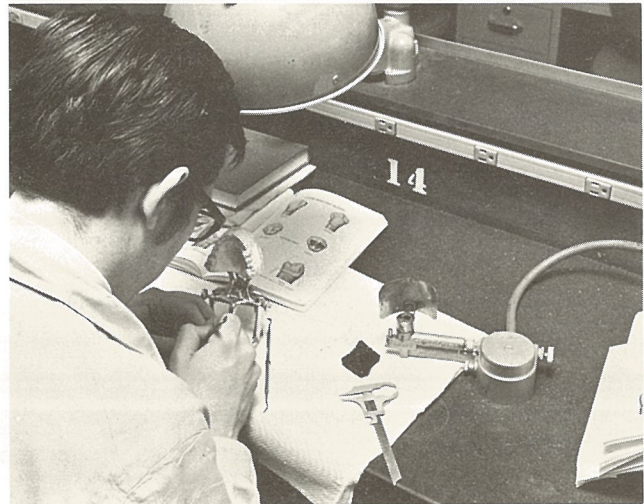
technology students are required to purchase a kit of instruments at a cost of about \$150. These instruments become the property of the student, to be used in his profession after graduation.

The Vocational-Technical Institute

The Vocational-Technical Institute occupies its own campus nine miles east of Carbondale near Carterville. It is the only university-connected school of its type in the state. Because it can call upon the vast resources of one of the nation's largest universities, VTI is able to offer unusually fine programs, many of which are not available in other schools. Students at VTI have exactly the same rights, privileges, and obligations as those enrolled in the four-year programs of the University. A library, student center, cafeteria, and housing are available to students on the VTI campus, and facilities of the Carbondale campus are open to VTI students.

For further information, write to:

Dean, Vocational-Technical Institute
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901



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