



الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties



DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM



Dental Assistant

Introduction

Program Title: Dental Assistant Certificate

Year and Semester: 2019 (one year; 4 blocks, 3months/ block)

Course Days/ Times: Sunday-Thursday 8-4:30pm

Course Location: Accredited Training Centers

Vision

To provide competent Dental Assistants in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to meet the need in the dental workforce.

Mission

To promote Dental Assistant as a profession by establishing a unified National Training Framework, Guidelines and minimum requirements in order to meet the demand in the dental workforce by highly qualified Saudis in alignment with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030.

Program Description

The dental assistant certificate program offers instruction in the clinical and administrative aspects of the dental practice. Students are prepared to aid dentists by managing patient information, preparing instruments and assisting with dental procedures. Graduates of this program will be able to work as independent Dental Assistants.

The duration of this program is 12 months.



Admission Criteria

Admission Criteria for applicants

- 1- Health Diploma's
- 2- Bachelor's degree in one of the following:
 - Science
 - Physics
 - Biology
 - Microbiology
 - Chemistry
 - Biochemistry
 - Biotechnology

Essential Requirements:

- IELTS Band is 4 minimum, or its equivalence in TOFEL or STEP

Program Goal and Objectives

Goal

To provide quality education and training that develop the potential of each student to become a productive, responsible, and competent professional dental assistant, as well as a skilled member of the dental team.

Objectives

Upon completion of this program, the trainee will be able to:

- 1- Describe clinical dental assistant practice, including functions and roles in the overall dental clinic team.
- 2- Recognize factors that may endanger patient's safety in dental assistant practice, namely, patient clinical status & risk.
- 3- Identify different dental material with its indication & contraindication, proper usage & implementation.



- 4- Describe the function and application of appropriate sterilization techniques and methods of disinfection.
- 5- Identify different pharmacological agents commonly used in dentistry
- 6- Demonstrate the technique of taking, processing, and developing different types of dental radiographs
- 7- Explain the relevant dental clinic policies, procedures and protocols.
- 8- Demonstrate appropriate and advanced communication skills in the clinical practice.
- 9- Recognize effective Communications skills with patient and dental team members.
- 10- Demonstrate professionalism in clinical practice.
- 11- Demonstrate interest in activities of professional development.
- 12- Recognize the need for continuing education of professional development.
- 14- Demonstrate use of ethical values in interpersonal & professional manner.
- 15- Apply knowledge of medico-legal and ethical aspects in professional practice and apply it in daily practice.

Competencies

By completing this program, the student is expected to achieve the following competencies:

Major Competency Areas

1. Professionalism & Team work
2. Communication Skills & Ethics
3. Dental Patient Management
4. Dental Equipment Management
5. Infection Control & Occupational Safety
6. Dental Radiology
7. Dental Terminology & Morphology and Head & Neck Anatomy
8. Dental Materials Uses & Applications
9. Dental Anesthesia Procedures
10. Dental Treatment Support & Clinical Procedures
11. Dental & Medical Emergencies Management
12. Preventive Dental Management



Student Responsibilities

Students will take ownership of their actions by exhibiting the following behaviors:

- 1- Demonstrate academic integrity and honesty.
- 2- Attend and participate in classes, labs, and seminars, prepared and on time.
- 3- Complete the assigned work in a timely manner with attention to quality of work.
- 4- Communicate in a careful and respectful manner with instructors, peers, and other members of the program.
- 5- Participate as an engaged learner and submit assignments as per instructed deadline.
- 6- Act in a civil manner that respects the college level learning/ social environment and complies with program policies outlined in the student and program manual.
- 7- Utilize program resources and seek help when needed.
- 8- Respect diverse ideas and opinions.
- 9- Identify, develop, and implement a plan to achieve their educational goals.

Course Passing Requirements and Grading System

A. Continuous Evaluation

B. End of Program Exam

A. Continuous Evaluation

Continuous evaluation is conducted during the program to monitor student's progression, identify those who are at risk and determines the eligibility of the student to enter the end of program exam.

An evaluation report is prepared for each student at the end of each block. The report will be discussed with the students individually to review their performance. The report involves a detailed description of the student's performance in each subject during the three months' period of the block and includes assessment of the following:

1. Attendance and punctuality: Students are required to attend all lectures and practical sessions. The students who miss more than 15% of the sessions in any subject (with no official excuse) will not be allowed to attend the final exam. Students who fail to attend lecture or practical session on time for four times are considered absent for one day. According to the number of the subjects/ sessions the grade is calculated.



2. Knowledge: a minimum of two quizzes and one end of block exam will be carried out during every three-month block's period.
3. Technical skills competencies: the competency evaluation of the subjects with practical part (lab and/ or clinic) is carried out based on continuous evaluation according to the evaluation rubric. Objective structured practical examination (OSPE) and Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) may also be included in the evaluation.
4. Adherence to professionalism and Islamic behavioral aspects: students are required to adhere to professional conduct for health practitioner including but not limited to proper communication with patients, their families, colleagues and supervisors. Failure to adhere to professional conduct will result in students losing marks.
5. Completion of course assignments: any assignment or course activity should be submitted on time. Late submission is not accepted.
6. Completion of course requirements (if applicable): The minimum number of the course requirement should be achieved.

Grading System for a Theoretical Subject

Attendance and punctuality: 5%

Quizzes: 20

Final written: 50%

Attitude: 5%

Assignments: 20%

Grading System for Subject with Theoretical and Practical Parts

Attendance and punctuality: 5%

Quizzes: 20

Final written: 30%

Practical evaluation including OSPE and OSCE (if applicable): 30%

Attitude: 5%

Assignment: 5%

Requirement (Study Session and Group Discussion): 5%

Students who fail to achieve 60% as a total grade of any subject are required to sit for a remediation exam. Students who fail to pass the remediation exam are required to repeat the block. Student cannot be transitioned to the next block if the subject is prerequisite subject. If the subject is not a prerequisite subject the student can be upgraded to the next level but would not be able to enter the end of program exam till passing the repeated course.



Scoring Policy

- A: Excellent 90-100
- B: Very good 80-89
- C: Good 70-79
- D: Acceptable 50-69
- F: Fail 49 or below

B. End of Program Exam:

The student's eligibility for the exam depends on:

- Passing all subjects
- Mastering all skills
- Successful completion of all clinical requirements
- Attendance: total absence percentage during the program 15% or less.

If students fail to fulfill any of the previously mentioned requirements, they wouldn't be able to sit for the exam.

The End of Program Exam is in Saudi Commission of Health Specialties (SCFHS)s. It will be written MCQs. The exam will cover all subjects and blueprint will be distributed. The total passing score of this exam is 50%. Student who fail to achieve the required grade is considered (F) and should sit for the exam again.

Time limit for completing the program

Students are expected to progress toward the program completion in a timely manner. Any delay in the expected graduation date due to any condition such as health issues, or academic difficulties will be taken into consideration according to the policies. The maximum timeframe to complete the program is 15 months.



Program Blocks:

The program is divided to 4 blocks, each block is for three-month duration.

Block 1 3 Months	Block 2 3 Months	Block 3 3 Months	Block 4 3 Months
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of dental assistance 2. Infection control 3. Dental terminology 4. Dental science (Head and Neck anatomy and Dental morphology) 5. Dental materials 6. Patient Management and Prevention of Dental disease. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radiology 2. Clinical Dental Assistance I (Prosthodontics - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - Restorative Dentistry - Endodontics) 3. Communication skills & Ethics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Dental Assistance II (Pediatric dentistry- Orthodontics - Periodontics). 2. Medically compromised Patients (MCP) & Emergency 	<p>Clinical Attachment (Periodontics for 1 month then orthodontics for 1 month then MCP for one month)</p>