UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Utah System of Higher Education
Dental Assisting
FY2027 / 19 Credits (600 Clock-Hours)

Foundational Courses

TEDE 1011 Introduction to Dental Assisting — 3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours

The Introduction to Dental Assisting course introduces the student to the dental assisting profession and teaches the fundamental concepts and principles necessary to fully participate as a member of the dental team.

Objectives:
• Describe the members of the dental healthcare team and their roles and responsibilities.
• Identify the landmarks of the face and the oral cavity.
• Identify arches, quadrants and planes, primary and permanent dentition.
• Identify the anatomy and surfaces of a tooth.
• Describe the three primary systems of tooth numbering for permanent and primary dentition.
• Discuss the caries process and how to control tooth decay.
• Discuss preventive dentistry and the relationship between nutrition and dental carries.
• Discuss how diet and nutrition can affect oral conditions and the functions of nutrients.

TEDE 1021 Infection Control — 2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours

The Infection Control course lays out the fundamentals of oral diseases, infection control, microbiology, and safety procedures in the dental office.

Objectives:
• Identify developmental disorders of the jaws and dentition.
• Discuss viral and bacterial diseases.
• Describe the modes of disease transmission and the importance of infection control.
• Perform appropriate first aid after an exposure incident.
• Discuss the CDC's prevention guidelines and the components of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Program.
• Discuss the role of government agencies in relation to dentistry.
• Discuss the classification and methods of sterilization.
• Demonstrate properly sterilizing instruments and using the sterilization equipment.
• Discuss the history and pioneers of microbiology.

TEDE 1100 Dental Anatomy — 2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours

The Dental Anatomy course lays out the fundamentals of dental terminology. This course provides a basic overview of the anatomy and physiology of the human body, with an emphasis on head and neck anatomy.

Objectives:
• Identify and describe the four levels of organization in the human body.
• Locate the major systems of the body; explain their purposes, components, and functions: and describe the signs and symptoms of each of their common disorders.
• Explain why understanding dental anatomy and physiology is important to the dental assistant.
• Identify the regions of the head.
• Locate and identify the bones of the skull.
• Discuss the symptoms of temporomandibular joint disorders.
• Identify locations of the muscles, salivary glands, blood vessels and nerves of the head and neck.

TEDE 1110 Dental Radiology — 3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours

The Dental Radiology course introduces the student to the basic safety and use of radiation in a dental setting. Students are given the knowledge and skills to expose and process intraoral and extraoral radiographic images including the various techniques used for each. The necessary skills and knowledge required to earn the Utah State Radiation Health and Safety certificate, that is necessary for employment as a dental assistant, are taught as well.

Objectives:
- Discuss the discovery of x-radiation and pioneers in the history of dental radiography.
- Discuss radiation physics and explain how x-rays are produced.
- Define what radiation safety measures should be used when exposing radiographs.
- Demonstrate the proper infection control protocol while exposing radiographs.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of radiation safety measures.
- Describe uses of different dental imaging systems.

TEDE 1201 Dental Instruments and Equipment — 3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours

The Dental Instruments and Equipment course identifies the proper use of instruments and equipment at the chair, and how to treat a medical emergency should one occur in the dental office.

Objectives:
- Describe areas of dental environment in a professional office.
- List clinical equipment and the basic functions.
- Describe how to prepare the treatment area for at patient.
- Explain instruments and how they are transferred.
- Discuss the role of the dental assistant in caring for the special patient.
- Describe the major medical disorders that can affect a patient’s oral health.
- Describe the preventive measures taken for a medical emergency.
- List the responsibilities of a dental assistant in an emergency and documentation.

TEDE 1221 Orthodontics, Pediatrics, Prosthodontics — 3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours

The Orthodontics, Pediatrics, Prosthodontics course introduces the clinical concepts and basic skills related the different specialties in the dental field and how their treatment is individual for each one. Types of orthodontic treatment, removable and fixed prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry are also discussed.

Objective:
- List indications and contraindications for fixed and removable prosthesis.
- Identify the role of the dental laboratory technician in dentistry.
- Describe steps when using a CAD/CAM system in the office.
- Discuss types of pediatric dental trauma and how to handle suspected abuse and neglect.
- List the causes and habits of patients that can affect their dental occlusion.
- Explain the role of an orthodontist assistant and the environment of the orthodontic practice.

TEDE 1300 Dental Office Administration **1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours**

The Dental Office Administration course provides the necessary knowledge and skills required in the dental office setting, and office administrative duties. Students learn about communication, law and ethics, job skills and many factors associated with making career decisions that can enhance a dental assistant's growth and success.

Objectives:
• Demonstrate knowledge of the law and ethics pertaining to the practice of dentistry.
• Demonstrate knowledge of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 as it pertains to the practice of dentistry.
• Demonstrate knowledge regarding communication (verbal and nonverbal) in the dental office and Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
• Identify office stress and demonstrate how to resolve conflicts.
• Identify the dental office staff and areas of responsibility.
• Describe proper dental records management.
• Describe basic payroll systems in the dental office.

TEDE 1900 Dental Assisting Externship **2 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours**

The Externship course presents the opportunity to practice skills acquired in dental assisting at a working dental office or clinic under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

Objectives:
• Demonstrate professionalism in a workplace setting.
• Practice competency by applying skills learned in a workplace setting.

Supplemental Courses Varies by Institution

Bridgerland

TEDE 1031 Patient Information **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Patient Information course introduces patient records and how to obtain and organize patient information. Instruction in measuring and recording vital signs is highlighted.

Objectives:
• Explain the patient dental record and its legal significance.
• Discuss person health information and the HIPAA laws.
• Obtain a completed medical-dental health history for a new patient.
• Enter information in a patient's chart for completed dental treatment.
• Demonstrate taking a patient's vital signs.
• Describe techniques used for patient's assessments.
• Demonstrate computerized charting.

TEDE 1041 Dental Materials **3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours**

The Dental Materials course introduces the use of dental materials in a clinical setting. Storing, mixing, transferring an applying of materials is integrated in the instruction. Finally, this course introduces lab materials and procedures; the skills necessary to take alginate impressions; pour and trim casts; and fabricate mouth guards and custom trays.

Objectives:
• List the properties of dental materials, how to manipulate them, and how they affect their application.
• Assist with applying cavity liners, sealers, varnishes, and desensitizers.
• List the three types of impressions taken in a dental office: preliminary, study casts, and occlusal registrations.
• Trim and finish a set of dental models and construct a vacuum-formed custom tray.
• List three types of custom impression trays and describe their uses in dentistry.

TEDE 1211 Anesthesia and Pain Control **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Anesthesia and Pain Control course explores a basic knowledge of the use of anesthesia and sedation in dentistry. An understanding of patient treatment procedures and pain control in the dental office is also discussed.

Objectives:
• Discuss dispensing of drugs, DEA, parts of a prescription and use of a PDR.
• Describe negative and positive effects of drug use.
• Discuss importance of pain control in dentistry.
• Describe processes and principles of cavity preps and classes of restorations and the need for pins, or intermediate restorative materials.
• Describe the use of matrix systems and different types that are used in dentistry.

Davis

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Objectives:
• Explain the patient dental record and its legal significance.
• Discuss person health information and the HIPAA laws.
• Obtain a completed medical-dental health history for a new patient.
• Enter information in a patient’s chart for completed dental treatment.
• Demonstrate taking a patient’s vital signs.
• Describe techniques used for patient’s assessments.
• Demonstrate computerized charting.

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• Assist with applying cavity liners, sealers, varnishes, and desensitizers.
• List the three types of impressions taken in a dental office: preliminary, study casts, and occlusal registrations.
• Trim and finish a set of dental models and construct a vacuum-formed custom tray.
• List three types of custom impression trays and describe their uses in dentistry.

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The Anesthesia and Pain Control course explores a basic knowledge of the use of anesthesia and sedation in dentistry. An understanding of patient treatment procedures and pain control in the dental office is also discussed.

Objectives:
• Discuss dispensing of drugs, DEA, parts of a prescription and use of a PDR.
• Describe negative and positive effects of drug use.
• Discuss importance of pain control in dentistry.
• Describe processes and principles of cavity preps and classes of restorations and the need for pins, or intermediate restorative materials.
• Describe the use of matrix systems and different types that are used in dentistry.

TEDE 1231 Periodontics, Endodontics, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Periodontics, Endodontics, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery course continues the study of clinical concepts and basic skills related to dental specialties including, endodontics, and oral maxillofacial surgery procedures.

Objectives:
• Define each specialty and the instruments and materials that are used in each one.
• Demonstrate competence in performing specialty procedures.
• Describe dental implants, their components, and indications and contraindications to using them.
• Define oral pathology and identify the assistant’s role in this specialty.
• Assist in procedures from all of the specialties.

TEDE 1500 Job Seeking Skills **1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours**

Job Seeking Skills explores how to prepare and successfully apply to potential career opportunities. During this course, you will be presented with essential job-seeking skills needed to find gainful employment.

Objectives:
• Create a professional resume, cover letter and reference sheet.
• Utilize online tools successfully to create an e-portfolio.
• Expand and develop networking skills.
• Utilize online resources effectively to find job openings.
• Demonstrate the ability to fill out job applications in a professional manner.
• Perform successfully in a job interview.
• Demonstrate appropriate follow-up procedures.

Mountainland

TEDE 1015 Intraoral Procedures and Patient Care **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Intraoral Procedures and Patient Care course introduces the use of dental materials in a clinical setting. Storing, mixing, transferring, and applying of materials is integrated in the instruction. Patient care explores a basic knowledge of the use of anesthesia and sedation and care for the patient clinical chairside.

Objectives:
• Describe processes and principles of cavity preps and classes of restorations and the need for pins, or intermediate restorative materials.
• List the properties of dental materials, how to manipulate them, and how they affect their application.
• Assist with applying cavity liners, sealers, varnishes, and desensitizers.
• Discuss the importance of pain control in dentistry.
• Identify potential needs of patients in the clinical setting.

TEDE 1901 Dental Assisting Externship II **3 Credits / 135 Clock-Hours**

The Dental Assisting Externship II course presents the students with an opportunity to have additional practice of the skills acquired in dental assisting at a working dental office or clinic under the supervision of a licensed dentist. This gives the student an opportunity to become proficient in the skills they have learned.

Objectives:
• Demonstrate professionalism in a workplace setting.
• Practice the application of skills in a workplace setting.

Ogden-Weber

TEDE 1031 Patient Information **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Patient Information course introduces patient records and how to obtain and organize patient information. Instruction in measuring and recording vital signs is highlighted.

Objectives:
• Explain the patient dental record and its legal significance.
• Discuss person health information and the HIPAA laws.
• Obtain a completed medical-dental health history for a new patient.
• Enter information in a patient’s chart for completed dental treatment.
• Demonstrate taking a patient’s vital signs.
• Describe techniques used for patient’s assessments.
• Demonstrate computerized charting.

TEDE 1231 Periodontics, Endodontics, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

The Periodontics, Endodontics, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery course continues the study of clinical concepts and basic skills related to dental specialties including, endodontics, and oral maxillofacial surgery procedures.

Objectives:
• Define each specialty and the instruments and materials that are used in each one.
• Demonstrate competence in performing specialty procedures.
• Describe dental implants, their components, and indications and contraindications to using them.
• Define oral pathology and identify the assistant's role in this specialty.
• Assist in procedures from all of the specialties.

TEDE 1150 Dental Materials and Pain Control **3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours**

This course introduces dental materials and pain control concepts essential for clinical dental assisting. Students will learn the properties, manipulation, and application of dental materials, as well as basic principles of anesthesia and pain management in dentistry. Instruction includes hands-on practice with impression techniques, model trimming, and fabrication of custom trays, alongside understanding drug dispensing, pain control methods, and restorative procedures.

Objectives
• Describe the properties and clinical applications of common dental materials used in restorative and preventive dentistry.
• Perform impression taking, model trimming, and custom tray fabrication using correct techniques.
• Explain the foundational principles of anesthesia and pain control in dental procedures.
• Describe the commonly used drugs for dental pain management, including their indications, contraindications, and safe handling.
• Assist in restorative procedures by preparing and managing dental materials effectively.
• Implement infection control and safety protocols consistently during all laboratory and clinical activities.