



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## *DipHE Advanced Dental Nursing*

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

**July 2021**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>DipHE Advanced Dental Nursing</b>
Final Award	<i>DipHE Advanced Dental Nursing</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE Dental Nursing (120 Level 4 Credit)</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2828FTC (B754)
Mode of study	<i>Full Time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>2 Years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>October 2021 onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science &amp; Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>University of Portsmouth Dental Academy</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/dental-academy/">http://www.port.ac.uk/dental-academy/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	-
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>General Dental Council</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>Level 4 &amp; 5</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- Provide a flexible programme of study that produces a skilled workforce able to contribute to patient care within the broader scope of dental nursing practice.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment where opportunities exist for students to develop a wide range of academic, clinical and transferable skills.
- To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary education to develop an appreciation of the other professions, their strengths, limitations and opportunities for team working.
- Develop the knowledge and skills required for a career as a proficient, confident and safe advanced Dental Nurse in support of evidence-based dental care.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes required to meet challenges relevant to the evolving role of the Dental Nurse within the multidisciplinary dental and wider healthcare team.
- To produce an individual who can demonstrate that they have met the outcomes required for registration as a Dental Nurse with the GDC and to practice Dental Nursing and additional skills to contribute to the delivery of clinical dental care as part of the wider dental team

### Subject Specific Aims:

- Provide focused and progressive knowledge of dental nursing in preparation for employment in a wide variety of clinical areas (e.g. salaried dental services, hospital dental services, general dental practice).
- To promote a philosophy of patient centred care and values based practice within the clinical setting.
- Develop academic, clinical and transferable skills to prepare students for employment as a qualified and registered Dental Nurse who utilises the DN scope of practice to work within the interdisciplinary dental team to provide patient centred care and treatment for patients and who contributes to the improvement of oral health.
- Prepare students with the necessary skills to progress further within higher education and within their personal and professional development.
- Provide the core skills and knowledge necessary for students to register as a qualified Dental Nurse with the General Dental Council before extending their clinical and academic skills.
- Encourage students to reflect upon their practice to improve patient care.
- Develop students to attain the highest standards in terms of knowledge, skills, (including clinical and technical skills), and professional attributes, in particular putting the interests of patients first at all times.

**The skills required of GDC registrants are covered in the following domains:**

- **Clinical** – the range of skills required to deliver direct patient centred care, where registrants interact with patients, and also the essential technical skills, carried out in the absence of patients which support their care.
- **Communication** – the skills involved in effectively interacting with patients, their representatives, the public and colleagues and recording appropriate information to inform patient care.
- **Professionalism** – the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour consistent with the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct and understanding the importance of and demonstrating the values that are outlined within the NHS constitution, putting patients’ needs first to promote confidence in the dental team.
- **Management and Leadership** – the skills and knowledge required to work effectively as a dental team, manage their own time and the teams resources and the ability to lead professional practices

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Core aspects of the scientific basis of dentistry including the clinical and technical knowledge required for the practice of advanced dental nursing and the mechanisms of knowledge acquisition.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation, written examination.
A2	Evaluation of the contemporary evidence base in relation to dentistry and advanced dental nursing practice.	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, written assignment.

A3	Broader issues of the practice of dentistry and the dental nurse's contribution (within their scope of practice and additional skills) within the provision of patient centred dental care in a range of organisational environments.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, written examination, practical exercise.
A4	The process of disease and the effect on the individuals and populations including the principles of oral health promotion and disease prevention.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment, presentation.

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Describe the principles of good research, how to access, evaluate and analyse research in support of evidence-based dental nursing practice and patient centred dental care.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work based learning and placement.	Oral assessment, presentation, portfolio, written assignment.
B2	Apply an evidence-based questioning approach to learning, practice, clinical judgment, and decision making and utilise critical thinking, reflection and problem solving skills.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation, written examination,

B3	Accurately assess own capabilities and limitations, demonstrating reflective practice, in the interest of high quality patient centred dental care.	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, written assignment, practical exercise.
B4	Explore current issues and developments in dentistry and apply to practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work based learning and placement	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation.

### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate the specific practical skills required to practice safely and effectively within the legal and ethical frameworks which inform practice as set out in the UoP Fitness to study guidance and the GDC Fitness to Practice guidance, making the high quality long term care of patients the priority, taking into account of the needs of different patient groups and recognising the importance of appropriate communication in health and care.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, written examination.
C2	Apply to the practice of dental nursing, principles that derive from the human, behavioural and biomaterial sciences and demonstrate effective clinical decision making within the Dental Nurse scope of practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio, written examination.

C3	Accurately assess own capabilities and limitations, demonstrating reflective practice, in the interest of high quality patient centred care and act within these boundaries	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, written examination.
C4	Plan a research project under appropriate supervision.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials.	Written assignment.

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Demonstrate skills relevant to Higher Education and employment as an Advanced Dental Nurse.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation.
D2	Act with integrity and uphold high personal and professional values to work as an advanced practitioner and an effective member of the dental team.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, written examination, practical exercise.
D3	Communicate information via a range of media in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation,

			written examination.
D4	Take responsibility for the planning and execution of own learning, reflecting on and evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses to establish a philosophy of continuing personal and professional planning and development.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.	Oral Assessment, presentation, portfolio, written assignment.

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Examination and Assessment Regulations 2019: 10. Compensation. The course has exemption from this academic regulation and therefore does not allow compensation.

This is due to the requirements of the General Dental Council that all outcomes are assessed and passed by the student if they are to apply for registration and a dental care professional. [Preparing for Practice: Dental team learning outcomes for registration \(2015 revised edition\) GDC, pg. 13](#)

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

*Insert additional reference points or delete as required*

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Dental Care Professions \(2005\)](#)  
**Currently out of date (Archived)**



- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [General Dental Council \(2015\) Preparing for Practice \(Revised Edition\) Dental team learning outcomes for registration](#)
- [General Dental Council \(2015\) Standards for Education](#)
- [HEOPS Dental Students – Standards of medical fitness to train \(2013\)](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth’s academic members of staff

- **Disclaimer**

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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