



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

# BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

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

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy</b>
<b>Final Award</b>	<i>BSc (Hons)</i>
<b>Exit Awards</b>	<i>Certificate of Higher Education in Oral Science - 120 credits at level 4.</i> <i>Diploma of Higher Education in Dental Health and Disease - 240 credits (maximum 120 level 4).</i> <i>Ordinary Degree in Oral Health Studies - 300 credits (maximum 120 level 4, 120 level 5).</i>
<b>Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	<i>C1810F, U1810FTC/B750</i>
<b>Mode of study</b>	<i>Full-time</i>
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	<i>Campus</i>
<b>Normal length of course</b>	<i>3 Years</i>
<b>Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies</b>	<i>From October 2022 onwards</i>
<b>Awarding Body</b>	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
<b>Faculty</b>	<i>Faculty of Science &amp; Health</i>
<b>School/Department/Subject Group</b>	<i>University of Portsmouth Dental Academy</i>
<b>School/Department/Subject Group webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/dental-academy">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/dental-academy</a>
<b>Course webpage including entry criteria</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-dental-hygiene-and-dental-therapy">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-dental-hygiene-and-dental-therapy</a>
<b>Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations</b>	<a href="#">General Dental Council</a>
<b><u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u></b>	<i>Level 4, 5 &amp; 6</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

### Educational Aims

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study.
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities.
- To produce an individual who can demonstrate that they have met the outcomes required for registration as a dental care professional with the GDC.

### The BSc (Hons) in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy Programme aims to:

- Provide students with the opportunity to develop a breadth of understanding of essential underpinning knowledge, concepts, principles and theories related to the role and practices of the registered dental therapist and dental hygienist.
- Provide opportunities for dental team integration and effective team working.
- Develop students' critical, analytical, practical, research and communication skills.
- Prepare students for employment, postgraduate study and career development.
- Develop in students the skills necessary for life-long independent learning, and the acquisition of knowledge to engender an awareness of the needs for these skills.
- 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.
- Develop an openness to or awareness of others, an appreciation of social and cultural diversity, a respect for human rights, and a sense of public or civic responsibility.

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

**Clinical** – the range of skills required to deliver direct 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 and attitudes/behaviours required to practise in an ethical and appropriate way, putting patients' needs first and promoting 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 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	The critical understanding of key scientific concepts and theories relating to clinical dentistry and the effect of disease on the health of individuals and populations including the principles of public health intervention, behaviour management and communication theories.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, written assignment. Oral assessment and presentation.
A2	The clinical and technical knowledge of specialised areas and evaluation of scientific evidence necessary to inform individual clinical dental hygiene and dental therapy practice.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, written examination, oral assessment and presentation.
A3	Critical understanding of the safe practice and provision of values-based patient centred dental care within a range of organisational healthcare environments, considering GDC standards, legal and ethical responsibilities and relevant legislation.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, practical exercise, oral assessment and presentation.
A4	The principles of learning, reflection, design and evaluation of contemporary evidence-base to inform and enhance patient centred dentistry, continuous personal and professional development and the importance of the NHS constitution and values-based patient centred dental care.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Oral Assessment, presentation., portfolio, written assignment and practical exercise.

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

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
B1	Accurately interpret treatment/dental care plans to inform effective clinical judgement and decision making in relation to the practice of dental hygiene and dental therapy.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, oral assessment and presentation.
B2	Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from the evaluation of research in support of evidence-based patient centred dental hygiene and dental therapy practice.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement and project supervision.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation and dissertation.
B3	Apply an evidence-based questioning approach to learning, practice, clinical judgement, and decision making and utilise critical thinking, reflection and problem-solving skills.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach and project supervision.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation, written assignment and dissertation.
B4	Conceptualise current issues and developments in dentistry and dental hygiene and dental therapy practice.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement and project supervision.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, practical exercise, portfolio and dissertation.

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

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
C1	Demonstrate competence in the clinical and technical delivery of dental hygiene and dental therapy patient centred care in a safe environment within the legal and ethical frameworks which inform practice as set out in the UoP Fitness to study guidance and the GDC Fitness to Practise guidance for both patient and staff as set out in the GDC Fitness to Practise guidance, working effectively as part of the wider dental team.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Portfolio, written examination, practical exercise, oral assessment and presentation.
C2	Communicate effectively with patients, their families and associates, members of the dental team and other health professionals involved in their care via a range of media.	Seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation and written assignment.
C3	Apply an evidence-based approach to learning and clinical practice.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement and project supervision.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio, practical assessment and dissertation.
C4	Conduct independent dental research under appropriate supervision.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials and project supervision.	Written assignment and dissertation.

**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.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials and community outreach.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, written examination, practical exercise and portfolio.
D2	Act with integrity and uphold high personal and professional values, working autonomously and independently as a flexible and adaptable team member. Setting priorities and managing time effectively within prescribed time limits.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Portfolio, written examination, written assignment, practical exercise, oral assessment and presentation.
D3	Acquire, analyse, process and communicate information in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement and project supervision.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment, written examination, written assignment and dissertation.
D4	Acquire, analyse, process and communicate information in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and project supervision.	Oral Assessment, presentation, portfolio and dissertation.

**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](#)

Due to the clinical elements of the course and the General Dental Council requirements to meet a level of safe and competent practice upon completion of the course, students are required to continue clinical practice following the summer assessment period until the end of July and return in early September to attend clinical skills refreshers before commencing back on patient clinics.

## 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:

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

## 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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## Document details

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