



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene

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

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene
Final Award	<i>BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene</i>
Exit Awards	Certificate of Higher Education in Oral Health Studies (No practice rights) - 120 credits at level 4 Diploma of Higher Education in Oral Health Studies (No practice rights) - 240 credits (maximum 120 level 4) Ordinary Degree in Oral Health Studies (No practice rights) - 300 credits (maximum 120 level 4, 120 level 5)
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2826F, U2826FTC/ B752</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full Time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 Years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From October 2022 onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>University of Portsmouth Dental Academy</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/dental-academy
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-dental-hygiene
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>General Dental Council</i>
<u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u>	<i>Level 4, 5 and 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

To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment where opportunities exist for students to develop academic, clinical, professional, research, communication and leadership skills necessary for a patient centred approach to care and the use of evidence to inform practice.

- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a coherent programme of study that produces professional Dental Hygienists capable of working independently and autonomously to provide clinical treatment and lead oral health improvement.
- Develop the knowledge, clinical and transferable skills required for a career as a proficient, confident and safe Dental Hygienist who is able to effectively lead in the delivery of evidence-based patient centred care.
- To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary education to develop an appreciation of other health and care professions and provide opportunities to lead multi-disciplinary team working.
- To provide opportunities to engage within the multidisciplinary dental team to lead, plan and deliver community outreach learning projects to deliver oral health interventions and influence health improvement of individuals and communities.
- To produce an individual who can demonstrate that they have met the outcomes required for registration as a Dental Hygienist with the GDC and have the necessary skills to progress in their career in employment or within postgraduate education in a variety of leadership roles.
- 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.

Subject Specific Aims

- 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 Hygienist.
- Provide opportunities for dental team integration, collaboration and effective team leadership.
- To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary education to develop an appreciation of the other professions, their strengths, limitations and to provide the necessary skills for Dental Hygienists to lead multi-disciplinary team working within community-based learning projects to influence health improvement
- To promote a philosophy of patient centred care and values-based practice within the clinical setting.
- Develop students' critical, analytical, practical, research, communication, behavioural, management and leadership 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

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 understand the importance of and demonstrate 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 team’s 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 appropriate biomedical and behavioural sciences, the process of disease and the effect on individuals and populations including the principles of health promotion and disease prevention, the mechanisms of knowledge acquisition.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, written examination, oral assessment and presentation.
A2	The application of scientific methods of evaluation of evidence to inform the clinical and technical knowledge required for the practice of dental hygiene, including medical emergencies, health and safety legislation and the maintenance of a safe working environment.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation and written examination.

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
A3	Provision of patient centred care and treatment in a range of organisational environments, considering GDC standards, legal and ethical responsibilities and relevant legislation associated with the practice of dental hygiene.	Lecture, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach.	Portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation, practical exercise and written assignment.
A4	Make effective clinical judgement and decisions to inform dental hygiene treatment and collaborate as part of the wider dental and healthcare team.	Lectures, seminars, tutorial practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination and practical exercise.

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Accurately interpret treatment/dental care plans to inform effective clinical judgement and decision making	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio and written examination.
B2	Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from the evaluation of research in support of evidence-based patient centred dental hygiene practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, practical assessment, written examination, oral assessment, presentation and practical

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
			exercise.
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, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation and dissertation.
B4	Conceptualise current issues and developments in dentistry and patient centred dental hygiene practice.	Seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement and project supervision.	Portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation, written assignment, practical exercise and dissertation.

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Lead in the delivery of patient centred dental hygiene care in a safe environment for both patients and staff within the legal and ethical frameworks which	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement and community outreach.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral

	inform practice as set out in the UoP Fitness to study guidance and the GDC Fitness to Practice guidance.		assessment, presentation, portfolio, practical exercise and written examination.
C2	Be competent in the clinical and technical aspects of providing dental hygiene treatment, applying an evidence-based approach to learning and clinical practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio and written examination.
C3	Use contemporary methods of communication and information management (in a variety of formats) to communicate effectively with patients, their families and associates, members of the dental team and other health professionals involved in their care to influence behaviour change.	Seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and community outreach.	Portfolio, written examination, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment and presentation.
C4	Conduct independent dental research under appropriate supervision.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials and project supervision.	Portfolio, written examination, written assignment and dissertation.

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
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D1	Demonstrate a range of skills relevant to Higher Education and employment taking 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 and project supervision.	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio, written examination and dissertation.
D2	Work autonomously and independently demonstrating an adaptable and flexible approach to leadership of individuals and teams, coordinating interprofessional patient centred dental care in a range of environments.	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	Utilise leadership skills to manage time effectively, prioritise and work to prescribed time limits whilst respecting other team members contributions to the care and treatment of patients	Seminars, lectures, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach and project supervision.	Portfolio, written examination, oral assessment, presentation, portfolio, practical exercise, written assignment and dissertation.
D4	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, written examination, written assignment, oral assessment, presentation 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, pg. 13](#)

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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