



DENT-132 – Patient Assessment

Health and Human Services

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026

Course Outline Review Date: 2031-04-01

Program Area: Health

Description:

Licensed Dental Assistants (LDAs) use the skills learned in this course in their daily practice of dentistry. Students are introduced to the skills required to take and monitor a patient's vital signs. Students cover in detail the basic anatomy of the head and neck, and the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity, looking specifically at occlusion and the relationship to the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Students study in detail the armamentarium, procedures, and methods for dental anesthesia. Annotation of these conditions in a legible, efficient manner is vital to communication between dentist, dental personnel, and patient. Students learn to record data as a vital part of patient assessment. This course also covers oral cancers and the process for taking and managing biopsy specimens.

Program Information:

This course is required for the successful completion of the Dental Assistant program.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face)

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 4

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	60

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	50 *Refer to DENT 154 Course Outline
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	110

Course Requisites:

None

Prior Learning and Recognition: No

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date, the following textbooks were in use:

Robinson, D.S. (2024). *Modern dental assisting* (14th ed.). Elsevier.

DENT 132 Module

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator

<https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- take and record vital signs;
- identify and locate anatomical landmarks of the head and neck;
- identify and locate intra-oral landmarks and structures;
- identify, locate and describe the dentition and its organization including primary and secondary dentition;
- assist with pain management techniques and provide clients with support;
- explain basic anatomy as it relates to pain management;
- recognize specific patient care needs related to intergenerational and other trauma;
- describe and recognize occlusion and its effects on the temporomandibular joint (TMJ);
- annotate correctly and accurately for common dental procedures;
- demonstrate and use the records management rules and regulations;
- describe the process for the taking and manipulation of oral biopsies; and
- describe the use of photography in dentistry.

Course Topics:

- General Assessment
- Head and Neck Tissues
- Intraoral Soft Tissues
- The Dentition
- Anatomic Structures Related to Pain Management
- Pain and Anxiety Management
- Occlusion and the TMJ
- Recording Data
- Biopsies and Photography

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Quizzes, Worksheets and Assignments	10%
Unit 1 & 2	20%
Unit 3 & 4	20%
Units 5 & 6	20%
Units 7	10%
Units 8 & 9	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=95	94-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70					<70

Pass requirements:

An overall average of B- (70%) or higher is required to pass this course.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

CLINICAL:

Elements of DENT 132, particularly course learning outcomes #1-6, #8 and #9, correspond to DENT 154 practical objectives:

- Obtain Vital Signs
- Apply Principles of Instrument Use
- Observe Soft Tissues
- Observe Dentition
- Observe Occlusion
- Record Data
- Apply Topical Anesthetic
- Assist With Pain Control

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works

- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
 - Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
-

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.