Course Information

Description: Prepares dental assistant students to chart oral cavity structures, dental pathology, and restorations and to assist a dentist with basic dental procedures including examinations, pain control, amalgam restoration, and cosmetic restoration. Students will also develop the ability to educate patients about preventive dentistry, brushing and flossing techniques, and dental procedures, using lay terminology. Throughout the course, students will apply decoding strategies to the correct use and interpretation of dental terminology.

Career Cluster: Health Science

Instructional Level: Technical Diploma Courses

Total Credits: 5

Textbooks


Learner Supplies

Uniform: Black lab jacket - $22, black pants - $22, white shoes - $20-35, and safety glasses - $5.50. Vendor: To be discussed in class. Required.

Success Abilities

1. Apply mathematical concepts.

2. Demonstrate ability to think critically.

3. Demonstrate ability to value self and work ethically with others in a diverse population.

4. Make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.

5. Transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.

6. Use effective communication skills.

7. Use technology effectively.
Course Competencies

1. **Decode dental terminology**
   
   **Assessment Strategies**
   
   1.1. by classifying dental terminology by prefix, root and suffix
   
   **Criteria**
   
   Your performance will be successful when:
   
   1.1. you identify the meaning of the prefix
   1.2. you identify the meaning of the root
   1.3. you identify the meaning of the suffix
   1.4. you determine the meaning of the whole word

2. **Operate dental equipment**
   
   **Assessment Strategies**
   
   2.1. by completing an operating dental equipment skill demonstration
   2.2. by completing a maintenance of dental equipment skill demonstration
   2.3. in a clinical setting
   
   **Criteria**
   
   Your performance will be successful when:
   
   2.1. you operate the dental equipment
   2.2. you maintain dental equipment
   2.3. you employ safety precautions
   2.4. you wear personal protective equipment

3. **Transfer dental instruments for various dental procedures**
   
   **Assessment Strategies**
   
   3.1. by completing an instrument transfer skill demonstration using a manikin
   3.2. in a clinical setting
   
   **Criteria**
   
   You will know you are successful when:
   
   3.1. you select the correct armamentarium
   3.2. you position yourself and manikin correctly
   3.3. you perform all steps in the right order
   3.4. you anticipate procedural steps
   3.5. you demonstrate approach, delivery and retrieval of instruments
   3.6. you employ safety precautions
   3.7. you utilize infection control protocol
   3.8. you wear personal protective equipment
   
   **Learning Objectives**
   
   3.a. Use dental terminology related to transferring of dental instruments appropriately
   3.b. Explain the importance of instrument exchange in four- and six- handed dentistry
   3.c. Describe various instrument grasps
   3.d. Identify the basic types of instrument exchanges
   3.e. Explain the step by step procedure for common instrument exchange procedures
   3.f. Describe how to maintain a fulcrum
   3.g. Identify responsibility of the dentist and dental assistant during the instrument exchange
   3.h. Determine safety precautions that should be implemented during instrument exchange
   3.i. Identify the personal protective equipment required
   3.j. Identify appropriate aseptic techniques during instrument exchange

4. **Maintain clear operating field**
   
   **Assessment Strategies**
   
   4.1. by completing a skill demonstration on a role-play peer
   4.2. in a clinical setting
   
   **Criteria**
   
   You will know you are successful when:
   
   4.1. you select the correct armamentarium
Learning Objectives
4.a. Use dental terminology related to maintaining a clear operating field appropriately
4.b. Identify the armamentarium required to maintain a clear operating field
4.c. Differentiate among the types of retraction used in an operative procedure
4.d. Describe the retraction techniques during an operative procedure
4.e. Differentiate between the use of the HVE and saliva ejector
4.f. Describe the routine care of the oral evacuation system
4.g. Describe the use of the air/water syringe in maintaining a clear operating field
4.h. Describe the procedure used in a complete mouth rinse using air/water syringe
4.i. Explain the basic rules for oral evacuator tip placement
4.j. Describe the placement of an evacuator tip for any given operative procedure or surgical site
4.k. Explain how the HVE system aids in reducing aerosols in the dental clinical environment
4.l. Determine safety procedures when maintaining a clear operating field
4.m. Describe isolation techniques using cotton rolls and related aids
4.n. Describe the indication for use of the dental dam
4.o. Explain the importance of dental dam isolation in today's dentistry
4.p. Identify appropriate aseptic techniques in maintaining a clear operating field
4.q. Differentiate among the types of mouth rinses
4.r. Identify the personal protective equipment required

5. **Apply the principles of chairside dentistry**

Assessment Strategies
5.1. by completing a skill demonstration of chairside dentistry using a role-play patient or manikin
5.2. in a clinical setting

Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*
5.1. you select the correct armamentarium
5.2. you obtain written patient consent
5.3. you position yourself correctly as the assistant
5.4. you position yourself correctly as the operator
5.5. you seat and position according to area of treatment, and dismiss patient or manikin
5.6. you communicate professionally with the patient
5.7. you employ safety precautions
5.8. you utilize infection control protocol
5.9. you wear personal protective equipment

6. **Adapt dental assisting techniques when assisting with dental examinations**

Assessment Strategies
6.1. by completing a skill demonstration in which you assist with a dental examination using a manikin or role-play patient
6.2. in a clinical setting

Criteria

*You will know you are successful when:*
6.1. you select the correct armamentarium
6.2. you position yourself and patient correctly
6.3. you anticipate procedural steps
6.4. you perform all steps in the right order
6.5. you communicate professionally with the patient
6.6. you employ safety precautions
6.7. you utilize infection control protocol
6.8. you wear personal protective equipment
6.9. you create patient records showing accurate, up-to-date documentation of treatment and services
Learning Objectives

6.a. Use dental terminology related to dental examinations appropriately
6.b. Identify the armamentarium required for a dental examination
6.c. Classify instruments used for a dental examination according to function
6.d. Describe the data necessary for a complete dental clinical examination
6.e. Describe the importance of a complete medical and dental history
6.f. Differentiate between an extra-oral and intra-oral examination
6.g. Sequence the steps in a dental examination
6.h. Select appropriate communication skills throughout the dental procedure
6.i. Determine safety procedures used during assisting for a dental examination
6.j. Identify the personal protective equipment required
6.k. Identify appropriate aseptic techniques during a dental examination

7. Record reported examination findings of the oral cavity structures

Assessment Strategies
7.1. by charting the condition of the external and internal structures of the oral cavity
7.2. by charting from dictation or by reading
7.3. by interpreting the previously charted conditions
7.4. in a clinical or classroom setting

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
7.1. you select the correct armamentarium
7.2. you accurately record the condition of the external and internal structures of the oral cavity

Learning Objectives
7.a. Use dental terminology related to recording of the oral cavity structures appropriately
7.b. Identify the armamentarium required for charting
7.c. Explain the methods used to record findings of the oral cavity structures
7.d. Describe common abbreviations and symbols used in charting oral cavity structures

8. Chart dental pathology

Assessment Strategies
8.1. in charting dental pathology by completing a chart
8.2. by charting on an anatomical and/or geometric chart
8.3. by completing a periodontal chart
8.4. by charting from dictation or by reading
8.5. by interpreting the previously charted conditions
8.6. in a clinical or classroom setting

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
8.1. you select the correct armamentarium
8.2. you accurately chart dental pathology
8.3. you chart according to G.V. Black’s Classification of Cavities
8.4. you chart periodontal conditions
8.5. you chart Angle’s classification of malocclusion and associated factors

Learning Objectives
8.a. Use dental terminology related to charting dental pathology appropriately
8.b. Identify the armamentarium required for charting
8.c. Describe common abbreviations and symbols used in charting oral cavity structures
8.d. Differentiate between types of geometrical and anatomical charts
8.e. Differentiate among the different tooth numbering systems
8.f. Identify dental pathology
8.g. Describe periodontal charting
8.h. Identify Angle’s classification of malocclusion

9. Chart restorations

Assessment Strategies
9.1. in charting dental restorations by completing a chart
9.2. by charting on an anatomical and/or geometric chart
9.3. by charting from dictation or by reading
9.4. by interpreting the previously charted conditions
9.5. in a clinical or classroom setting

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
9.1. you select the correct armamentarium
9.2. you chart according to G.V. Black's Classification of Cavities
9.3. you accurately chart restorations
9.4. you accurately chart restorative problems

Learning Objectives
9.a. Use dental terminology related to charting restorations appropriately
9.b. Identify the armamentarium required for charting
9.c. Describe common abbreviations and symbols used in charting dental restorations
9.d. Differentiate between types of geometrical and anatomical charts
9.e. Differentiate among the different tooth numbering systems
9.f. Compare the symbols used to chart various restorations

10. Manage handpieces and rotary instruments

Assessment Strategies
10.1. by completing a skill demonstration on assembly and maintenance
10.2. in a clinical setting, using the equipment provided

Criteria
Your performance will be successful when:
10.1. you select the correct armamentarium
10.2. you select the correct handpiece by name and use
10.3. you assemble handpieces
10.4. you select, insert, and remove appropriate attachment
10.5. you maintain handpieces and attachments
10.6. you perform all steps in the right order
10.7. you employ safety precautions
10.8. you use infection control protocol
10.9. you wear personal protective equipment

11. Document treatment and procedures that have been performed

Assessment Strategies
11.1. by preparing written dental records that document clinical treatment scenarios
11.2. given the forms

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
11.1. you accurately reference teeth using given numbering system correctly
11.2. you accurately record dental services rendered
11.3. you use correct terminology and abbreviations
11.4. you ensure documentation is well organized
11.5. you use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
11.6. you use correct alterations

Learning Objectives
11.a. Use dental terminology related to documenting on a patient treatment record appropriately
11.b. Identify the components of a patient treatment record
11.c. Explain the procedure for recording services rendered
11.d. Explain the procedure for correcting an error on a patient treatment record

12. Assist with chairside pain control

Assessment Strategies
12.1. by completing a skill demonstration in which you assist with pain control procedures on a manikin
12.2. in a clinical setting

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
12.1. you select the correct armamentarium
12.2. you position yourself and manikin correctly
12.3. you anticipate procedural steps
12.4. you perform all steps in the right order
12.5. you assemble and disassemble syringe and/or injection system
12.6. you assist with topical anesthetic
12.7. you transfer syringe
12.8. you communicate professionally with the patient
12.9. you employ safety precautions
12.10. you utilize infection control protocol
12.11. you wear personal protective equipment
12.12. patient’s records show accurate, up-to-date documentation of treatment and services

Learning Objectives
12.a. Use dental terminology related to chairside pain control appropriately
12.b. Describe the purpose of anesthesia
12.c. Differentiate between the use of topical and local anesthesia
12.d. Differentiate among the types of anesthesia and their application to dentistry
12.e. Explain the components of local anesthesia and its effect on the body
12.f. Identify the parts of a local anesthetic syringe, needle, and capule/cartridge
12.g. Describe the procedure for assembling and disassembling an anesthetic syringe
12.h. Identify the types of syringes used in dentistry
12.i. Explain the technique for transferring an anesthetic syringe
12.j. Describe the procedure for assisting with topical anesthetic
12.k. Identify the signs and symptoms of post anesthetic complications
12.l. Select appropriate communication skills throughout the dental procedure
12.m. Determine safety procedures used with chairside pain control
12.n. Identify the personal protective equipment required
12.o. Identify appropriate aseptic techniques during chairside pain control

13. Interpret dental procedures to a patient, using lay terminology

Assessment Strategies
13.1. in an oral, written, or graphic assessment

Criteria
You will know you are successful when
13.1. you accurately explain a specific dental procedure
13.2. you use lay terminology that a patient can understand
13.3. you present information in a style and tone consistent with the audience’s level of interest and level of knowledge or understanding
13.4. you answer questions accurately, thoroughly, and with respect
13.5. you ensure patient’s records show accurate, up-to-date documentation of service

Learning Objectives
13.a. Describe various dental procedures
13.b. Compare dental and lay terminology
13.c. Recognize and use elements of effective two-way communication to give and receive messages
13.d. Describe ways to help insure the patient understands the procedure

14. Adapt dental assisting techniques when assisting with a direct restoration

Assessment Strategies
14.1. by completing a skill demonstration in which you assemble and place a matrix system for a given tooth on a manikin
14.2. by completing a skill demonstration in which you assist with a direct restoration on a manikin
14.3. in a clinical setting

Criteria
Your performance will be successful when:
14.1. you select the correct armamentarium
14.2. you position yourself and manikin correctly
14.3. you anticipate procedural steps
14.4. you perform all steps in the right order
14.5. you prepare matrix system
14.6. you transfer instruments
14.7. you maintain visibility and moisture control
14.8. you mix and transfer materials
14.9. you communicate professionally with the patient
14.10. you provide post operative instructions
14.11. you employ safety precautions
14.12. you utilize infection control protocol
14.13. you employ safety precautions
14.14. patient's records show accurate, up-to-date documentation of treatment and services

15. Define preventive dentistry and its importance to the patient

Assessment Strategies
15.1. in an oral, written or graphic assessment

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:
15.1. you define preventive dentistry in terms a lay person can understand
15.2. you explain the benefits of preventive dentistry
15.3. you describe patient recommendations for disease prevention
15.4. you describe the role of dental professionals in preventive dentistry

16. Demonstrate proper tooth brushing and interproximal cleaning techniques

Assessment Strategies
16.1. by demonstrating proper tooth brushing, interproximal cleaning and adjuncts to role-play patient(s) in a skill demonstration

Criteria

16.1. you select the correct armamentarium
16.2. you perform plaque assessment
16.3. you use visual aids
16.4. you perform and explain all steps for each technique
16.5. you select, explain and use the correct adjunct for the scenario
16.6. you use terminology the patient understands
16.7. you communicate professionally with the patient
16.8. you answer questions asked by patients
16.9. you present the content clearly and accurately
16.10. your instruction is well organized
16.11. you employ safety precautions
16.12. you utilize infection control protocol
16.13. you wear personal protective equipment
16.14. patient's records show accurate, up-to-date documentation of patient education