

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Name: Professional Practice

Department Head/Coordinator: Department Head: Lisa M Supeene **Effective Date:** September 2012

School or Centre:		Department:	
School of Health Sciences		Dental Hygiene	
Course History:		Year of Study:	
Replacement Course		2nd Year Post-secondary	
Name of Replacing Course (if applicable):	Professional Practice DHAC 2103	Course Number:	DHAC 2234
		Number of Credits:	4.0

Course Pre-requisites (if applicable):

Term 1 courses in Dental Hygiene Access Program

Course Co-requisites (if applicable):

Term 2 courses in Dental Hygiene Access Program

PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition)

No Yes (details below):

Course Description:

This course provides learners with increased knowledge of professional dental hygiene practice with an emphasis on professional communication, ethics and jurisprudence, professional development and the diverse role of the dental hygienist in health care delivery. This course provides guidance to learners in the transition from their current role in health care to their role as a dental hygienist.

Instructional Strategies:

Synchronous and asynchronous discussion forums promote learning through sharing opinion and experience.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain professionalism in terms of responsibility to clients, communities and health care professionals.
2. Analyze theoretical and practical components of professional communication strategies important in health care.
3. Discuss codes of ethics, jurisprudence, moral reasoning and ethical dilemma management.

Program Learning Outcomes:

A graduate has met the goals of the VCC Dental Hygiene Diploma program based on the Entry-to-Practice Standards and Competencies for Canadian Dental Hygienists (1) by reliably demonstrating knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the following domains:

1. Professional: Use elements of the arts and science of dental hygiene in the service of the public such as the application of codes of ethics and professional conduct, the development of safe practice environments, and the responsibility/accountability for decisions and actions appropriate for a self-regulating profession.
2. Communicator/Collaborator: Use effective verbal, non-verbal, visual, written, and electronic communication methods in the exchange of ideas, opinions and information relevant to dental hygiene practice. As well as influence and work with others to improve the health and well-being of the public.
3. Critical Thinker: Invoke systematic inquiry, reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making strategies in the provision of all dental hygiene services.
4. Advocate: Speak, write, or act in support of causes, policies, individuals, or groups that aid to reduce inequities in health status or improve access to health services.

Coordinator: Support client needs and outcomes through the coordination and management of services, actions and resources.

5. Clinical Therapist: Provide primary, interceptive, therapeutic, preventive, and supportive care procedures that enable individuals and groups to achieve optimal oral health that contributes to overall health.
6. Oral health educator: Apply teaching and learning principles to facilitate the development and expansion of skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviour which support oral health and general health.
7. Health promoter: Use health promotion principles and strategies to enable individuals and groups to increase their control over and to improve their health.

1 Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA). Entry-To-Practice Competencies and Standards for Canadian Dental Hygienists. Ottawa, ON: CDHA, 2010. Available from: www.cdho.org/otherdocuments/EntrytoPractice.pdf

Evaluation/Grading System

Grading System	Specify if 'Other':	Specify Passing Grade:
Letter Grades		C

Components and Weighting of the Assessment/Evaluation Plan:

Type	Percentage	Evaluation Plan (provide a brief explanation for each component especially if value exceeds 35%):
Participation	15	Participation in online activities and discussions
Project	35	Argumentative essay
Project	25	Dental hygiene professional communication essay
Project	25	Group response to an ethical dilemma
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-		
Total		100

Learning Environment/Type

Instruction Type	Hours Per Instruction Type	Comments
I - Internet/eLearning (Fully Online)	120	
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Enter Total Hours	120	

Resource Material(s):

Resources are items in addition to tuition that the student is responsible for purchasing. Course resource information will be supplied by the department/instructor.

Course Topics and Sequence Covered:

1. Effective oral, verbal, electronic and written communication in health care
2. Dental hygiene profession within health care
3. Legal aspects of dental hygiene practice
4. Principles of self and peer assessment
5. Moral reasoning and ethical decision making
6. Learning and continuing competence
7. Accessing resources as part of critical decision making

VCC Education and Education Support Policies

There are a number of **Education** and **Education Support** policies that govern your educational experience at VCC, please familiarize yourself with them.

The policies are located on the VCC web site at:

<http://www.vcc.ca/about-vcc/policies/index.cfm>

To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at www.bctransferguide.ca.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Date Approved by Education Council:		Date Approved by VCC Board (if applicable):	
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