

Syllabus for DA 156C, Dental Assisting Fundamentals Clinical Lab Experience

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2025
Course ID & Section #: DA 156C (E9672) and DA 156 (E9673)
Instructors' Name: Teresa Moore RDA/ CDA, Hillary Reed RDAEF/ CDA, Raynell Tindall RDA/ CDA
Day/Time: Monday Clinical Lab (E9672): 12:00 PM -4:30 PM Wednesday Clinical Lab (E9673): 12:00 PM -4:30 PM
Location: AT 101 (Dental Health Center /Clinical Lab) and AT 112 Lab
Number of Laboratory Proctored Exams: 3
Course Units: 1.5 (81 Clinical Hours Only)
Prerequisites: DA 150, Dental Assisting Program Orientation
Co-requisites: DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156

Instructor Contact Information

Office Location: AT 101
Office Hours: Thursdays, Fridays, and by appointment
Phone Number: 707-476-4250
Program Coordinator Phone Number: 707-476-4253
Program Coordinator Email Address: Hillary-reed@redwoods.edu
Absences: In the event of emergency contact 476-4250. To be eligible for alternative exams the absence must be reported ½ hour prior to the beginning of class. Excessive absences will result in Program dismissal.

Required Materials

Textbook Title: Modern Dental Assisting, 14 th Edition with Workbook (ISBN: 978-032-382-4408)
Author: Robinson
Textbook Title: Dental Instruments, 8 th Edition (ISBN: 978-032-387-3901)
Author: Bartolomucci-Boyd
Other requirements: Dental Assisting Program Handbook, Uniform, Personal Protective Equipment, and Dental Kit

Course Description

A course intended for clinical practice and patient care on campus in the Dental Health Center under the direct supervision of faculty. An assimilation of foundational content. Prior to performing essential dental assisting skills, duties and functions in the clinical setting students must demonstrate pre-clinical competence level mapped throughout the curriculum in DA 150, DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, and DA 156.

Course Objective

1. Progress from preclinical competency to clinical competency level in fundamental essential dental assisting skills and chairside dental assisting functions in general dentistry procedures in patient care.
2. Exhibit quality control by following directions, safety measures, protocol, and using sound judgement.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate proper procedure set-up according to verbal and written directives as well as given protocol for a variety of general dentistry procedures.
2. Function as a chairside dental assistant performing essential duties as allowed by the California Dental Practice Act common to general dentistry to the clinical competence level utilizing sound judgement, demonstrating quality control and proficiency.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate as a functional team member following the schedule, seating and greeting patients, providing pre-operative and post-operative instructions, completing the router, and actively participating in the AM and PM lists.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

The Dental Assisting Program is approved by the Dental Board of California (DBC) and Commission on Dental Accreditation as a cohort of classes to fulfill the hour requirements of a minimum of 900 instructional hours at the post-secondary level that includes 300 clinical practice hours. Additionally, didactic, laboratory, pre-clinical, and clinical content must be covered.

The Dental Assisting Program of Study requires the student to successfully complete the requirements of DA 150 prior to enrolling in the fall semester cohort of courses DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156, and DA 156C. Students are enrolled in these courses concurrently. Curriculum reiterates and combines concepts, information, and proficiencies from other courses to prepare students for the clinical setting.

Course Content Outline

1. Infection Prevention Systems and Dental Health Center (DHC) Protocol
2. Essential Dental Assisting Skills and Chairside Dental Assisting Functions Practice
3. Patient Care

Specific Clinical Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

According to CODA Standard 2-9, Essential Dental Assisting Skills prior to performing these skills/functions in the clinical setting, students must demonstrate knowledge and preclinical competence in the following:

1. Take/review and record medical and dental histories.
2. Take and record vital signs (temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, and respiration)
3. Assist with soft tissue and intra-oral/ extra-oral exams.
4. Assist with dental charting.
5. Manage infection and hazard protocol consistent with CDC guidelines, OSHA, EPA, and FDA.
6. Prepare tray set-ups for a variety of general dentistry procedures.
7. Seat and dismiss patients.
8. Operate oral evacuation devices and 3-way syringe.
9. Maintain clear field of vision and demonstrate various isolation techniques.
10. Perform a variety of instrument transfers.
11. Utilize appropriate chairside ergonomics.
12. Provide patient prevention education and oral hygiene instruction.
13. Provide pre-operative and post-operative instructions prescribed by the dentist.
14. Assist with maintaining accurate patient treatment records.
15. Identify and respond to medical and dental emergencies.

CODA Standard 2-10, Chairside Dental Assisting Functions prior to performing these skills/functions in the clinical setting. Students must demonstrate knowledge and preclinical competence in the program facility of the following:

16. Assist with and/or apply topical anesthetic and de-sensitizing agents.
17. Assist with placement and removal of rubber dam.
18. Apply Fluoride Agents.
19. Perform polishing of the coronal surfaces of the teeth.

Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (i.e. dyslexia, reading comprehension)
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

Eureka campus Location: Student Services Building, first floor

Phone: 707-476-4280

Handbook

All students have signed acknowledgement that they have accessed the Dental Assisting Handbook in Canvas, as well as read and agreed to detailed information provided regarding information, notifications, requirements, policies, rules and disciplinary actions. The Handbook further discusses Student Support Services, Grading Policies, Disruptive Behavior, and Emergency Procedures.

Canvas Information

College of the Redwoods Canvas System is used by students and the instructors for grade tracking, referencing handouts (files), and discussion participation. Students can access Canvas at any time, using their college e-mail and password to determine their current grade in the course as well as specific scores for completed participation, assignments, or exams/ quizzes. Instructors enter grades weekly.

Accessing Canvas

1. Log into Canvas at [My CR Portal](#)
2. For help logging in to Canvas and general tech help, visit [Canvas Support Home](#)
3. Once you're logged in to Canvas, you click on the Help icon on the left menu

Special Note

The course instructor(s) and/or the Program Coordinator have the right to alter the syllabus content at any time for any reason. Course content alterations can only be done by faculty at their discretion.

Clinical Lab Preparation

In the first half of the semester the student will participate in activities designed to reinforce the information discussed in lecture and lab in the cohort of dental assisting courses. This time is used as practice for RDA Skills Competency Tests and Instrument Identification/ Tray Set-up Exams prior to testing in the regularly scheduled class.

A “Preclinical Competency Tracking Sheet” is used to determine participation and preparedness. Step-by-step procedures in the textbook include illustrations, the equipment and supplies needed, icons, and the rationale behind certain steps. These step-by-step procedures are used to practice in the lab setting to prepare for RDA Skills Competency Tests required prior to performing the function in the clinical setting. The step-by-step procedures are provided in the MDA 14th Edition Workbook.

The second half of the semester the student will participate in actual patient care in the Dental Health Center.

Practical Examinations

Practical examinations in other courses provide assessment for participation in the clinical setting. Students must earn a minimum of 75% on all RDA Skills Competency Tests and Instrument Identifications/Tray Set-up Exams to participate in the clinical setting. Students are allowed two attempts. The grade earned on the first attempt will be the grade recorded in Canvas. Students scoring below a 75% will require remediation, allowing for the second attempt. Remediation allows the student to score a 75% or above on the second attempt, allowing for participation in the clinical setting.

After remediation, if the student continues to score 74% or below on the second attempt the student will not be able to participate in the clinical setting due to unpreparedness and safety concerns in patient care. Likewise, students requiring more than 2 remediation contracts throughout the semester will not be able to participate in the clinical setting and will be dropped from the course.

Clinical Labs

Clinical performance is evaluated by the clinical instructors on the specific procedures assigned using the Procedural Evaluation Forms where the student is assigned to patient care. These forms are completed for each procedural assignment given in the clinical session, establishing the performance objective, grading and specific procedural criteria.

Procedural Evaluation Forms are collected during the clinical session after students have reviewed their earned grade and read written feedback by faculty.

The Clinical Evaluation is based on course objectives derived from Program Learning Outcomes. This evaluation form provides the student with their clinical grade, informs the student of his/her progress in meeting clinical objectives, identifies what additional learning is required, and makes recommendations to improve and/or to meet objectives. Further information is available in the Clinical Handbook.

Work Readiness Points

To be successful in the workforce, students have to develop skill sets and healthy work habits necessary for lasting employment.

Students are awarded five Pay Day Points for full participation in the activities and tasks assigned to each clinical lab session where all requirements, policies, and rules are followed as stated in the Program Handbook. Students begin the course with zero Pay Day Points. Pay Day points will be factored into the course grade.

Students not participating in activities or tasks or not following requirements, policies, and rules or who are absent will not acquire any Pay Day Points for that class session(s). This includes those that are tardy or leave early.

Additionally disciplinary action (as outlined in the Program Handbook) for the second, third, and fourth offense will affect the final course grade negatively.

Dental Assisting Program Grading Scale

The Commission on Dental Accreditation and the Dental Board of California require the lecture and lab grade to be 75% or better. The Dental Assisting Program courses are sequential and have co-requisites. Students not passing with a 75% or better in the course cannot continue.

Grade	Percentage	Definition
A	96-100	Outstanding progress
A-	90-95	Outstanding progress
B+	87-89	Above average progress
B	84-86	Above average progress
B-	81-83	Average Progress
C+	78-80	Satisfactory Progress
C	75-77	Lowest acceptable Progress
D	65-74	No progression,
F	<65	Failure
W	N/A	Official Withdrawal

Course Requirements

Overall Course Grade Calculation:

The overall course grade is weighted and determined by an average. Students cumulative scores on assignment portion (35%), clinical evaluation portion (20%), practical exam portion (35%) and participation (10%) are averaged together to generate a percentage determining the overall course grade.

Participation Portion:	Weighted 10% of total grade
Pay Day – Work Readiness Points 5 points per lecture and 5 points per lab	
Assignment Portion:	Weighted 35% of total grade
1 Clinical Duties Task Sheet (50 points)	
1 RDA Skills Worksheet (100 points)	
Clinical Evaluations	Weighted 20% of total grade
2 Clinical Evaluation (50 points each)	
Practical Exam Portion:	Weighted 35% of total grade
1 Instrument Identification and Tray Set-up Exam (100 points)	
1 Oral Hygiene Instructions w/ Brushing and Flossing Exam	
2 RDA Skills Exams	

Course Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, August 25 or Wednesday August 27 (Clinical Lab)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for class:

Chapter 31 Assisting in a Medical Emergency

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 31.1, 31.2, 31.3 (review from orientation)

31.4, 31.5, 31.6, 31.7, 31.8, 31.9, 31.10, 31.11

Safety and Emergency Procedures at College of the Redwoods,
Identify and respond to medical emergencies

Week 2

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, September 1 (Holiday) or Wednesday, September 3 (Clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 20.1, 20.2, 21.1, 21.2, 21.5, 21.7, 32.1, 32.2

Week 3

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, September 8 or Wednesday, September 10 (Clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS EXAM #1

(OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and Hazard Communication Standard)

Week 4

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, September 15 or Wednesday, September 17 (Clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Practice adjusting light and ergonomic positioning, 33.1, 33.2, 33.3, 33.4, 33.5, 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, Demonstrate proper patient dismissal using an Eaglesoft generated Router. Practice mounting 41.7 and taking BWX 41.5. Practice flossing 15.3, perio charting and applying fluoride 15.1, 15.2, learn exam and prophy set-ups. Use saliva ejector.

Week 5

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, September 22 or Wednesday, September 24 (Clinical Lab)

EXAM AND PROPHY PROCEDURE SET-UP EXAMS

ORAL HYGIENE INSTRUCTION with BRUSHING/FLOSSING EXAM

Week 6

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, September 29 or Wednesday, October 1 (Clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Work on instrument and handpiece memorization 34.1, 34.2, 34.3, 34.4, 35.1, 35.2, begin moisture control with HVE in small groups. Oreo exercise. Work on radiography periapicals (FMX's).

Week 7

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, October 6 or Wednesday, October 8 (Clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS EXAM #2 (Basic Dental Assisting Skills)

Week 8

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, October 13 or Wednesday, October 15 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 9

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, October 20 or Wednesday, October 22 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 10

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, October 27 or Wednesday, October 29 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 11

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 3 or Wednesday, November 5 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 12

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 10 or Wednesday, November 12 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 13

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 17 or Wednesday, November 19 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 14

Monday, November 24 – Friday, November 28

Thanksgiving Holiday Week

Week 15

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, December 1 or Wednesday, December 3 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 16

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, December 8 or Wednesday, December 10 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

Week 17

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, December 15 or Wednesday, December 17 (No Clinical)

Patient Care in the Dental Health Center

RDA SKILLS SHEET DUE

CLINICAL RDA SKILLS TRACKING SHEET DUE