

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

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2026	<i>Prepared 8/5/26</i>
Course ID & Section #: DA 156C (E1785) and DA 156C (E1786)	
Instructors' Name: Teresa Moore RDA/ CDA, Hillary Reed RDAEF/ CDA, Raynell Tindall RDA/ CDA	
Day/Time: Monday Clinical Lab (E1785): 8:30 AM -1:05 PM Wednesday Clinical Lab (E1786): 8:30 AM -1:05 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 (ISBN: 978-0-323-82440-8)
Author: Robinson
Textbook Title: Modern Dental Assisting 14 th Edition Student Workbook (ISBN:978-0-443-12031-2)
Author: Robinson
Textbook Title: Dental Instruments, 8 th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-323-87390-1)
Author: Bartolomucci-Boyd
Other requirements: Handbook, Uniform, Personal Protective Equipment, Darby 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.

Course Competency

1. The student will progress from preclinical to clinical competency by demonstrating essential dental assisting duties when functioning competently as a chairside dental assistant in 4-handed dentistry as well as when performing allowable duties by the California Dental Practice Act. Ensuring quality control and sound judgement through strict adherence to provided directives, safety standards, and established protocol for a variety of procedures in general dentistry.

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

Required Essential Dental Assisting Skills and Chairside Dental Assisting Functions

Prior to performing dental assisting functions/duties in the clinical setting, students must demonstrate laboratory/pre-clinical competency to a 75% or better to comply with CODA and DBC requirements for in DA 154, DA 155, and DA 156 as well as the following:

1. Assist with a soft tissue extra/oral examinations
2. Assist with a permanent restoration
3. Provide pre-operative and post-operative instructions prescribed by a dentist

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 Education Management System is Canvas and is used by students and the instructors for grade tracking and course 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.

Practical Examinations

All Practical (Lab) Exams are standardized assessment for participation in the pre-clinical/ clinical setting in DA 156, Dental Assisting Fundamentals Clinical Lab Experience. As a requirement of CODA and DBC, students must earn a minimum of 75% on all Practical (Lab) Exams in the other cohort of Registered Dental Assisting Program courses to competently participate in the pre-clinical/clinical setting. Students earning 74% or less are required to reassess and have a Remediation Contract on file. 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 pre-clinical/clinical setting due to unpreparedness and safety concerns in patient care. Likewise, students requiring more than 3 remediation contracts throughout the semester will not be able to participate in the clinical setting and will be dropped from the course. Please refer to the Handbook for more details.

Pre-clinical and Clinical Labs

In the first four weeks of the course students will primarily practice preclinical skills in infection prevention in the clinical setting. However, in the third week students will begin practicing content from DA 156.

The following four weeks students will practice pre-clinical skills on each other, observe set-up and actual patient care where a faculty assists the dentist, as well as perform the skills listed in the syllabus in which competency has been met for DA 154, DA 155, and DA 156.

The last eight weeks students will participate in patient care, and the clinical performance portion begins and 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. Student skill level increases throughout the fall semester and the allowable duties increase as skill competencies in co-requisite courses are successfully passed. The allowable skills are listed in the syllabus for each week.

Procedural Evaluation Forms are collected during the clinical session after students have reviewed their earned grade and read written feedback by faculty. These are then given back to the students at time of their evaluation. Two evaluations are scheduled during the eight-week period.

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 must 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 who do not participate 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
3 RDA Skills Exams RDA Skills Exam #1 OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen and Hazard Communication Standard RDA Skills Exam #2 Assist with Soft Tissue extra/oral examinations and OHI RDA Skills exam #3 Assist with a Permanent Restoration and Pre & Post-Operative	

Course Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1

Unit: Management of Medical Emergency Response

Monday, August 24 or Wednesday August 26 (Pre-clinical Lab)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for class:

Chapter 31 Assisting in a Medical Emergency (Review from DA 150, Dental Assisting Orientation)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 31.3, 31.4, 31.5, 31.6, 31.7, 31.8,

Safety, Emergency and First Aid Procedures and Protocol at College of the Redwoods

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 22.1

Week 2

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, August 31, or Wednesday, September 2 (Pre-clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 154 and DA 156: 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 20.1, 20.2, 21.1, 21.2, 21.5, 21.6, 21.7, 21.8, 23.1, 24.1, 32.1, 32.2

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 155: 39.1, 40.2, 40.5

Week 3

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, September 7, (Holiday) or Wednesday, September 9 (Pre-clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 154 and DA 156: 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 20.1, 20.2, 21.1, 21.2, 21.5, 21.6, 21.7, 21.8, 23.1, 24.1, 32.1, 32.2

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 155: 39.1, 40.2, 40.5

Week 4

Unit: Infection Prevention Systems and Practice

Monday, September 14 or Wednesday, September 16 (Pre-clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY EXAM #1 – Manage Infection and Hazard Control Protocol
(OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and Hazard Communication Standard)

Week 5

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, September 21 or Wednesday, September 23 (Pre-clinical/Clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 154: 13.1, 13.2, 44.3 demonstrate disclosing and oral hygiene instructions

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 155: 41.5, 41.7

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 156: Practice adjusting light and ergonomic positioning, 33.1, 33.2, 33.3, 33.4, 33.5, 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, patient dismissal with Router. 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 34.1-4, 35.1, 35.2

Week 6

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, September 28 or Wednesday, September 30 (Pre-clinical/ Clinical Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 154: 13.1, 13.2, 44.3 demonstrate disclosing and oral hygiene instructions

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 155: 41.5, 41.7

Textbook Procedure Competencies DA 156: Practice adjusting light and ergonomic positioning, 33.1, 33.2, 33.3, 33.4, 33.5, 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, patient dismissal with Router. 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 34.1-4, 35.1, 35.2, 36.4

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists and infection control practice only. Students will practice the above skills and observe.

Week 7

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, October 5 or Wednesday, October 7 (Pre-Clinical/Clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY EXAM #2 - Assist with Soft Tissue Extra/Oral Exam and OHI

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in Am/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams and prophies; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs, dismissing the patients

Week 8

Unit: Essential Dental Assisting Skills Practice

Monday, October 12 or Wednesday, October 14 (Pre-Clinical/Clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY EXAM #3 - Assist with a Restoration and Pre/Post Operative

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams and prophies; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX; dismiss the patients

Week 9

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, October 19 or Wednesday, October 21 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams and prophies; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; dismiss the patients

Week 10

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, October 26 or Wednesday, October 28 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; dismiss the patients

Week 11

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 2 or Wednesday, November 4 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; dismiss the patients

Week 12

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 9 or Wednesday, November 11 (Holiday) (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX/ FMX; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; coronal polish and floss; dismiss the patients

Week 13

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 16 or Wednesday, November 18 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX/ FMX; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; coronal polish and floss; dismiss the patients

Week 14**Monday, November 23 – Friday, November 27**

Thanksgiving Holiday Week

Week 15

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, November 30 or Wednesday, December 2 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite, crown prep; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX/ FMX; place topical and load syringe; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; coronal polish and floss; preliminary impression, dismiss the patients

Week 16

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, December 7 or Wednesday, December 9 (Clinical Lab)

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite, crown prep; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX/ FMX; place topical and load syringe; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; coronal polish and floss; preliminary impression, dismiss the patients

Week 17

Unit: Patient Care

Monday, December 14 or Wednesday, December 16 (Clinical Lab)

RDA SKILLS SHEET DUE

CLINICAL RDA SKILLS TRACKING SHEET DUE

Patient Care in Dental Health Center – Students participate in AM/ PM lists; infection control; set-ups for exams prophies, amalgam, composite, crown prep; greeting and seating the patients; vital signs; BWX/ FMX; place topical and load syringe; transfer instruments; operate HVE, saliva ejector, and 3-way syringe; isolate; coronal polish and floss; preliminary impression, dismiss the patients