

Syllabus for DA 153, Dental Assisting Science

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2026	<i>Prepared 8/5/2026</i>
Course ID & Section : DA 153 (E1780)	
Instructor's Name: Hillary Reed, RDAEF, CDA, COA, CDPMA, CPFDA	
Day/Time: Thursday Lecture (E1780): 8:30-10:35	
Location: AT 115 (Lecture)	
Number of Lecture Proctored Exams: 4	
Course Units: 2	
Lecture Hours: 36	
Prerequisites: Prerequisites: DA 150, Dental Assisting Program Orientation	
Co-requisites: DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156, DA 156C	

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

An applied science course as applicable to dental assisting. A basic understanding of anatomical structures and functions are emphasized. Growth and development of oral tissues are examined. Customary terms and proper vocabulary are practiced in preparation for clinical competency in patient care.

Course Objective

1. Apply didactic content (scientific based) to practical application of dental assisting in patient care.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Communicate proper terminology when identifying dentitions, oral anatomy, and basic anatomical landmarks in patient care.
2. Identify proper tooth numbers and surfaces in adult dentition.

Course Competency

1. The student will apply didactic knowledge to communicate proper tooth numbers and surfaces in the adult dentition and apply proper terminology when identifying dentitions, oral anatomy, and basic anatomical landmarks.

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 concurrently enrolled in the courses. The curriculum reiterates and combines concepts, information, and proficiencies from other courses to prepare students for the clinical setting.

Course Content Topics

1. Microbiology for Infection Prevention
2. Dentition and Tooth Morphology
3. Oral Embryology and Histology
4. Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity
5. Head and Neck Anatomy
6. General Physiology

Specific Didactic Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

1. Use of technical terms to communicate with dental professionals.
 2. Differentiate and identify the dentition as well as anatomical structures in the didactic setting prior to advancing to the clinical setting.
- 1. Microbiology for Infection Prevention:**
1. Explain the importance of microbiology and disease prevention in the dental setting.
 2. Identify the course of infection and the necessary links for development of infectious disease in the Chain of Infection.
- 2. Dentition and Tooth Morphology:**
1. Use shape, appearance, and landmarks to classify, locate, and identify function of the human dentitions.
 2. Label tooth surfaces and identify tooth numbers using the Universal National numbering system, Palmer Notation system and ISO/FDI system.
 3. Identify tissue of the dentition and oral cavity, including anatomical and clinical crowns.
- 3. Oral Embryology and Histology:**
1. Describe the life cycle of teeth including the six stages of development and the prenatal, genetic, and environmental factors affecting development.
 2. List and give the functions of the basic structures of the periodontium.
- 4. Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity:**
1. Identify the types of oral mucosa and characteristic landmarks of the oral cavity and tongue.
 2. Define centric occlusion and Angle's Classification of occlusion.
- 5. Head and Neck Anatomy:**
1. Identify the anatomical structures of the face, head, and neck applicable to dental assisting.
- 6. General Anatomy and Physiology:**
1. Recognize the major components of all ten major body systems and describe the primary function of each system.

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.

Lecture Preparation

Students are to have read assigned chapters prior to arriving to lecture. The lecture activities assist the students in comprehending the content and preparing for the clinical setting.

Didactic (Lecture) Examinations

All lecture examinations are given at the beginning of class. The exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and identification questions. Please refer to your course syllabus for exam times, dates, and chapters covered. Students must be in good standing with 75% to participate in DA 156, Dental Assisting Fundamentals Clinical Lab Experience. All didactic (lecture) exams must be passed with 75% or better. Students

scoring below 74% will be required to reassess and have a Remediation Contract on file. Please refer to the Handbook for more details.

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 class session (lab and lecture), 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 are a 5% portion of 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 determined by an average. Students' cumulative scores on quizzes (35%), written exams (50%), assignments (10%), and participation (5%) are averaged together to generate a percentage, determining the overall course grade.

Participation Portion:	Weighted 5% of total grade
Pay Day - Work Readiness Points 5 points per lecture	
Assignment Portion:	Weighted 10% of total grade
Worksheet Assignment – Tooth Number and Surfaces (50 points)	
Project – Human Body System (50 points)	
Quiz Portion:	Weighted 35% of total grade
3 Quizzes (40 points each)	
Didactic Exam Portion:	Weighted 50% of total grade
3 Didactic Exams (150 points each)	
1 Final Exam (350 points)	

Course Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1

Thursday, August 27 (Lecture)

Unit: Microbiology for Infection Prevention

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 18 Microbiology

Chapter 19 Disease Transmission and Infection Prevention

Week 2

Thursday, September 3 (Lecture)

QUIZ #1 (CH. 18, 19)

Unit: Microbiology for Infection Prevention

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 18 Microbiology

Chapter 19 Disease Transmission and Infection Prevention

Week 3

Thursday, September 10 (Lecture)

EXAM #1 (CH. 18, 19)

Unit: Microbiology for Infection Prevention

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 18 Microbiology

Chapter 19 Disease Transmission and Infection Prevention

Week 4

Thursday, September 17 (Lecture)

Unit: Dentition and Tooth Morphology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 11 Overview of the Dentitions

Week 5

Thursday, September 24 (Lecture)

Unit: Dentition and Tooth Morphology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 11 Overview of the Dentitions

Week 6

Thursday, October 1 (Lecture)

WORKSHEET ASSIGNMENT DUE – TOOTH NUMBERS AND SURFACES

Unit: Dentition and Tooth Morphology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 12 Tooth Morphology

Week 7

Thursday, October 8 (Lecture)

QUIZ #2 (CH. 11, 12)

Unit: Dentition and Tooth Morphology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 12 Tooth Morphology

Week 8

Thursday, October 15 (Lecture)

EXAM #2 (CH. 11, 12)

Unit: Oral Embryology and Histology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 8 Oral Embryology and Histology

Week 9

Thursday, October 22 (Lecture)

Unit: Oral Embryology and Histology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 8 Oral Embryology and Histology

Week 10

Thursday, October 29 (Lecture)

Unit: Oral Embryology and Histology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 8 Oral Embryology and Histology

Week 11

Thursday, November 5 (Lecture)

Unit: Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 10 Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity

Week 12

Thursday, November 12 (Lecture)

Unit: Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity/ Head and Neck Anatomy

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 10 Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity

Chapter 9 Head and Neck Anatomy

Week 13

Thursday, November 19 (Lecture)

Quiz #3 (CH 8, 9, 10)

Unit: Head and Neck Anatomy

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 10 Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity

Chapter 9 Head and Neck Anatomy

Week 14

Monday, November 23 – Friday, November 27

Thanksgiving Holiday Week

Week 15

Thursday, December 3 (Lecture)

EXAM #3 (CH. 8, 9, 10)

Unit: General Anatomy and Physiology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 7 General Physiology

Week 16

Thursday, December 10 (Lecture)

PROJECT DUE – HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS

Unit: General Anatomy and Physiology

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 7 General Physiology

Week 17

Thursday, December 17 (Lecture)

FINAL EXAM (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)