

Syllabus for DA 164, Advanced Dental Assisting Functions in Dental Specialties

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2026
Course ID & Section #: DA 164 (E0100) and DA 164 (E0101)
Instructor's Name: Hillary Reed RDAEF, CDA, COA, CDPMA, CPDA (Lecture), Raynell Tindall, RDA, CDA (Labs), Teresa Moore RDA, CDA (Sealant Labs only)
Day/Time: Thursday Lecture (E0100/E0101): 12:30-2:35 Friday AM Lab (E0100): 7:30-10:35 Friday PM Lab (E0101): 10:45-1:55
Lecture Location: AT 115
Lab Location: AT 112
Course Units: 3
Lecture Hours: 36
Lab Hours: 54, including 6 Clinical Lab Hours
Number of Proctored Didactic Exams: 4
Number of Proctored Lab Exams: 8
Prerequisites: Acceptance in Dental Assisting Program cohort, successful completion of fall semester courses with a 75% or better in DA150, DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156, DA 156C
Co-requisites: DA 163, DA 164, DA 165, DA 166, DA 167

Instructor Contact Information

Office Location: AT 101
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays by appointment
Office Phone Number: 707-476-4250
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.
Communication Note: Communications with the instructor in-person or electronically that need a response occur during customary business hours during the business week.
Instructor Email Address: Hillary-Reed@redwoods.edu & Raynell-Tindall@redwoods.edu
Program Coordinator Phone Number: 707-476-4253
Program Coordinator Email Address: Hillary-reed@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook Title: Modern Dental Assisting, 14 th Edition with Workbook (ISBN: 978-0-032-382-4408)
Author: Bird and 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, Darby Dental Kit

Course Description

A continuation of comprehensive dental care as applicable to dental assisting. Delivery of advanced functions and permitted duties in pedodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, and endodontics are emphasized. Advanced functions and permitted duties are practiced to the pre-clinical level. Pit and fissure sealants are performed to clinical competency.

Course Objective

Apply didactic content and demonstrate pre-clinical competence (laboratory) prior to practical application of dental assisting advanced functions and permitted duties in patient care.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify common specialty dental instruments, materials, and set-ups used in a variety of specialty dentistry procedures.
2. Demonstrate competence in advanced dental assisting functions and permitted duties as allowed by the California Dental Practice Act common to specialty practices to the pre-clinical competency level as prescribed by a dentist.
3. Perform pit and fissure sealant placement to the clinical competence level under direct supervision of faculty in the Dental Health Center (campus facility).

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

The Dental Assisting Program of Study requires the cohort of students to have successfully completed DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, and DA 156 with a 75% or better to be eligible to enroll in the spring semester cohort of courses.

Additionally, the Dental Assisting Program of Study requires the cohort of students to enroll in DA 163, DA 164, DA 165, and DA 167 concurrently. This is a Dental Board of California (DBC) and Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) requirement. Curriculum reiterates and combines concepts, information, and proficiencies from other courses to prepare students for the clinical setting.

Course Content Topics

1. Pit and Fissure Sealants
2. Pediatric Dentistry
3. Orthodontics
4. Oral Surgery, Periodontics and Implants
5. Periodontics
6. Prosthodontics
8. Endodontics

Specific Didactic Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

1. Apply learned theory to patient care.
2. Demonstrate ability to follow directions and given protocol.
3. Describe the role of the Registered Dental Assistant in each dental specialty.
4. Identify the legal restrictions placed on the Registered Dental Assistant when performing permitted duties and functions in the specialty dentistry settings as specified by the California Dental Practice Act.

Pit and Fissure Sealants:

5. Explain why dental sealants are a component of preventative dentistry and why Registered Dental Assistants can place them.
6. Describe the indications and contraindications for dental sealants.
7. Discuss the different sealant materials available and the importance of following manufacturer's directions.

Pediatric Dentistry:

8. List examples of common procedures and names of specialized instruments and items in pediatric dentistry.

9. Describe the setting and schedule common to a pediatric office.
10. Describe how to work with special needs patients and discuss behavioral management.
11. Discuss pediatric dental trauma and sports safety.
12. Describe signs of suspected child abuse and neglect and the requirements for mandated reporting.
13. Describe the pediatric dental assistant characteristics.

Orthodontics:

14. List examples of common procedures and names of specialized instruments and items in orthodontics.
15. Describe the setting and schedule common to orthodontics.
16. Explain the required diagnostic records for assessment and treatment plans and data gathered by the assistant.
17. Discuss how treatment occurs, duration, and function of appliances used.
18. Discuss treatment plan presentation, patient compliance, and payment.
19. Describe the orthodontic dental assistant characteristics.

Oral Surgery, Periodontics and Implants:

20. List examples of common procedures and names of specialized instruments and items in oral surgery and periodontics.
21. Explain the importance of the chain of asepsis and cautionary procedures taken in the surgery setting.
22. Describe the setting and schedule common to oral surgery and periodontics.
23. Describe common oral surgery procedures performed in a general dentistry setting.
24. Discuss sutures and suture removal.
25. Describe pre-operative and post-operative care.
26. Explain the importance of patient monitoring, duration, and examples of emergency alerts.
27. Discuss complications resulting from surgery.
28. Describe non-surgical and surgical periodontal treatment.
29. Discuss the procedures performed by a hygienist in the periodontal office.
30. Describe steps to apply and remove surgical dressing.
32. Discuss the indications and contraindications for various types of dental implants.
33. Identify the steps and healing time with the placement of osteointegration implants.
34. Describe the oral surgery/ periodontic surgery dental assistant characteristics.

Prosthodontics:

35. List examples of common procedures and names of specialized instruments and items in prosthodontics.
36. Discuss removable prosthodontics including partial dentures, full dentures, overdentures, and immediate dentures.
37. Describe the appointment sequencing and steps involved in fabrication.
38. Name the components of a full and partial denture.
38. Describe common prosthodontic procedures performed in general dentistry.
39. Describe denture adjusting, repairing, relining, and polishing.
40. List the steps when using CAD/CAM system.

Endodontics:

41. List examples of common procedures and names of specialized instruments and items in endodontics.
42. List the causes and symptoms of pulpal damage.
43. Describe the diagnostic testing.
44. Describe the procedural steps and materials used.
45. Describe pre-operative and post-operative care.
46. Describe standard of care, limitations, and common endodontic procedures performed in general dentistry.

Specific Pre-Clinical Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

Pit and Fissure Sealants:

1. Perform pit and fissure sealant application, demonstrating the necessary steps in proper order and competently.

Pediatric Dentistry:

2. Identify the materials and steps in performing a pulpotomy and placement of stainless-steel crown.
3. Assemble a T-band matrix and demonstrate spot welding a stainless-steel matrix.
4. Identify various interceptive orthodontic appliances.
5. Provide accurate verbal information for avulsed teeth.

Orthodontics:

6. Identify common orthodontic instruments and materials.
7. Demonstrate intra-oral and extra-oral photography techniques.
8. Determine Class of Occlusion.
9. Place and remove a variety of posterior orthodontic separators.
10. Place and remove orthodontic elastomeric ligature ties, arch wires, and accessories.
11. Assist in the steps of cementation and removal of orthodontic brackets and bands.

Oral Surgery, Periodontics, and Implants:

12. Prepare a sterile field for instruments and supplies.
13. Perform a surgical scrub and sterile gloving.
14. Identify common oral surgery and periodontic instruments and materials.
15. Place patient monitoring sensors.
16. Monitor Nitrous oxide –oxygen analgesia.
17. Remove sutures on a model.
18. Apply dressing for treatment of alveolar osteitis.
19. Place and remove post-extraction dressings and periodontal dressings on a typodont.

Prosthodontics:

20. Take face-bow transfers.
21. Fabricate custom trays, bleach trays, and mouthguards.
22. Clean and polish removable appliances and prostheses.
23. Adjust dentures extra-orally.
24. Observe a CAD/CAM restoration scanned and milled and list the steps.

Endodontics:

25. Identify common endodontic instruments, materials, and equipment.
26. Perform pulp vitality tests.

Specific Clinical Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

Pit and Fissure Sealants:

1. Perform pit and fissure sealant application, demonstrating the necessary steps in proper order to the clinical competency level on 4 patients.

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.

Lecture and Lab Preparation

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

Each week the student will participate in activities designed to reinforce the information discussed in lectures. 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.

Didactic (Lecture) Examinations

All lecture examinations are administered 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.

Practical Examinations

Practical examinations 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 75% will require remediation, allowing for the second attempt. Remediation allows the student to score 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.

Pit and Fissure Clinical Labs

As required by the Dental Board of California (DBC) Pit and Fissure requires at least 24 hours, including 6 hours of didactic instruction, 6 hours laboratory training, and 12 hours clinical training to meet minimal competency. Clinical instruction shall include clinical experience on four patients with two of the four patients used for the clinical examination.

Students must perform pit and fissure sealants to the clinical competency level on patients in DA 164, Dental Specialties and Procedures Lab under direct supervision of the faculty, patients undergoing the pit and fissure sealant procedure will have already been screened by the supervising dentist. The clinical lab portion will total over twelve hours as required by the Dental Board of California. These labs are indicated in the course syllabus.

All clinical performance will be evaluated by the instructors. Students will be required to self-evaluate as well.

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 will be factored into the course grade.

Students who do not participate in activities or tasks or do not follow 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.

Overall Course Grade Calculation:

The overall course grade is weighted and determined by an average. Students cumulative scores on quizzes (15%), written exams (35%), practical (lab) exams (35%), assignments (10%), and participation (5%) are averaged together to generate a percentage determining the overall course grade.

Participation Portion: Weighted 5% of total grade:	Weighted 5% of total grade:
Pay Day - Work Readiness Points 5 points per lecture and 5 points per lab	
Assignment Portion:	Weighted 10% of total grade
RDA Skills Worksheet (100 points)	
Quiz Portion:	Weighted 15% of total grade
5 Quizzes (40 points each)	

Lecture Exam Portion:	Weighted 35% of total grade
1 Lecture Pit and Fissure Exam (100 points)	
2 Lecture Exams (150 points each)	
1 Lecture Final Exam (200 points)	
Practical (Lab) Exam Portion:	Weighted 35% of total grade
2 Pit and Fissure Sealant Clinical Competency Tests (100 points each)	
4 RDA Skills Competency Tests (100 points each)	
2 Procedural Instrument Exams (75 points each)	

Course Requirements/ Evaluation and Grading Policy

Registered Dental Assistant 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 Registered Dental Assistant 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 Content- Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1 - Thursday, January 22 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 59 Dental Sealants (3-hour lecture)

Week 1 - Friday, January 23 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 59.1 Typodont Clinpro with L-Pop (etch, prime, and bond) (3-hour lab)

Week 2 - Thursday, January 29 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 59 Dental Sealants (3-hour lecture)

Week 2 - Friday, January 30 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 59.1 Typodont Clinpro with L-Pop (etch, prime, and bond) (3-hour lab)

Practice Patient #1 – Clinpro with L-Pop (etch, prime, and bond)
Practice Patient #2 – Clinpro with L-Pop (etch, prime, and bond)

Week 3 - Thursday, February 6 (Lecture)

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT WRITTEN EXAM
GUEST LECTURER: Pediatrics

Week 3 - Friday, February 7 (Clinical Lab 6-hours with Instructors)

*Dr. Wolven will be Evaluating Patients prior to Pit and Fissure Sealant Clinical Competency Exams
(6 hrs. each session, A.M. Cohort 7:30 -1:30, P.M. Cohort 11:30-5:30)*

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT CLINICAL COMPETENCY TEST – PATIENT #1

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT CLINICAL COMPETENCY TEST – PATIENT #2

Week 4 - Thursday, February 12 (Clinical Lab 6-hours with Instructors)

*Dr. Wolven will be Evaluating Patients prior to Pit and Fissure Sealant Clinical Competency Exams
(6 hrs each session, A.M. Cohort 7:30 -1:30, P.M. Cohort 12:00-6:00)*

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT CLINICAL COMPETENCY TEST – PATIENT #3

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT CLINICAL COMPETENCY TEST – PATIENT #4

Week 4 - Friday, February 13

NO SCHOOL -Lincoln's Birthday

Week 5 - Thursday, February 19 (Lecture)

*Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:
Chapter 57 Pediatric Dentistry*

Week 5 - Friday, February 20 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 57.1, 57.2, 28.1

Week 6 - Thursday, February 26 (Lecture)

QUIZ #1 (Chapter 57)

*Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:
Chapter 60 Orthodontics*

Week 6 - Thursday, February 27 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 57.1, 57.2, 28.1

Week 7 - Thursday, March 5 (Lecture)

QUIZ #2 (Chapter 60)

*Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:
Chapter 60 Orthodontics*

Week 7 - Friday, March 6 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 28.1 (Photography) 60.1, 60.2, 60.3, 60.4, 60.5, 60.6, 60.7

Week 8 - Thursday, March 12 (Lecture)

EXAM #2 (Chapters 57 and 60)

*Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class: ***GUEST LECTURER: Humboldt Orthodontics***
Chapter 60 Orthodontics*

Week 8 - Friday, March 13 (Lab)

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY EXAM #1- Orthodontics

(Placing/ Removing Elastomeric Separators and Placing/ Removing Ligature Ties)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 60.1, 60.2, 60.3, 60.4, 60.5, 60.6, 60.7

PROCEDURAL INSTRUMENT EXAM #1 - Orthodontics

Week 9 -Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 20

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 - Thursday, March 26 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 56 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Week 10 - Friday, March 27 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 27.5, 27.6, 56.1, 56.2, 56.3, 56.4, 56.5, patient monitoring activities

Week 11 - Thursday, April 2 (Lecture)

QUIZ #3 (Chapter 56)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 56 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Chapter 55 Periodontics

Chapter 53 Dental Implants

Week 11 - Friday, April 3 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 56.6, 56.7, 56.8, 56.9, 55.3, 55.4

Week 12 - Thursday, April 9 (Lecture)

EXAM #3 (Chapters 56, 55 and 53)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 55 Periodontics

Chapter 53 Dental Implants

Chapter 52 Removable Prosthodontics

Week 12 - Friday, April 10 (Lab)

**RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY EXAM #2-Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
(Suture Removal and Placing/Removing Periodontal Dressing)**

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 55.3, 55.4

PROCEDURAL INSTRUMENT EXAM #2- Oral Surgery

Week 13 - Thursday, April 16 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 50 Fixed Prosthodontics – CAD CAM Technology

Chapter 52 Removable Prosthodontics

Chapter 47 Laboratory Materials and Procedures

Week 13 - Friday, April 17 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 47.1, 47.5, 50.4, 52.1, 52.2, 52.3, 52.4

Week 14 - Thursday, April 23 (Lecture)

QUIZ #4 (Chapters 50, 52, 47)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 50 Fixed Prosthodontics – CAD CAM Technology

Chapter 52 Removable Prosthodontics

Chapter 47 Laboratory Materials and Procedures

Week 14 - Friday, April 24 (Lab)

RDA SKILLS EXAM #3 - Prosthetics (Clean, Adjust, and Polish Removable Dental Prosthodontics)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 47.1, 47.5, 50.4, 52.1, 52.2, 52.3, 52.4

Week 15 - Thursday, April 30 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapters 54 Endodontics

Week 15 - Friday, May 1 (Lab)

RDA SKILLS SHEETS DUE

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 54.1, 54.2

Week 16 - Thursday, May 7 (Lecture)

QUIZ #5 (Chapter 54)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapters 54 Endodontics

Week 16 - Friday, May 8 (Lab)

RDA SKILLS EXAM #4 – Endodontics (Pulp Test)

Week 17 - Thursday, May 14 (Lecture)

LECTURE FINAL EXAM – CUMULATIVE