

Syllabus for DA 165, Advanced Dental Radiography

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2026
Course ID & Section #: DA 165 (E0102) and DA 165 (E0103)
Instructors' Names: Hillary Reed, RDAEF, CDA, COA, CDPMA, CPDA (Lecture), Teresa Moore, RDA, CDA (Labs)
Instructional Aide: Bailey Callison, RDA
Day/Time: Tuesday Morning Lab (E0102): 8:30-11:40 Tuesday Lecture (E0102/E0103): 12:00-1:05 Tuesday Afternoon Lab (E0103): 1:10-4:15
Lecture Location: AT 115
Lab Location: AT 112
Course Units: 2
Lecture Hours: 18
Lab Hours: 54
Number of Proctored Didactic Exams: 2
Number of Proctored Lab Exams: 7
Prerequisites: Acceptance in Dental Assisting Program cohort, successful completion of fall semester courses with a 75% or better in DA 150, DA 153, DA 154, DA 155, DA 156, DA 156C
Co-requisites: DA 163, DA164, DA165, DA166, DA167

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: M Hillary-Reed@redwoods.edu & Teresa-moore@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: 978-032-382-4408)
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, Darby Dental Kit

Course Description

A continuation of radiographic principles as applicable to dental assisting. Implementation of skill development and error analysis are emphasized in exposing both intra- and extra- oral diagnostic quality radiograph images. Clinical competency in patient care is required throughout the semester to qualify for Dental Board of California requirements for Radiation Safety Certification upon graduation.

Course Objective

1. Apply didactic content and demonstrate pre-clinical and clinical competence to meet all requirements of the Dental Board of California Radiation Safety Certification.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate competence in exposing diagnostic quality full-mouth series consisting of periapical and bitewing images.
2. Exhibit the ALARA concept when imaging intra-orally and/or extra-orally utilizing digital radiography.
3. Formulate corrective measures when identifying and analyzing errors on images.
4. Identify anatomical landmarks on both intra-oral and extra-oral images.

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. Film and Processing
2. Duplicating Films, Legal and Ethical Implications
3. Occlusal Technique
4. Extra-oral Imaging
5. Anatomical Landmarks
6. Periodontal patient (Vertical Bitewings and the Slob Rule)
8. Endodontic patient

Specific Didactic Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

1. Apply learned theory to patient care.
2. Demonstrate ability to follow oral and written directions.

Film and Processing

3. Describe the two primary projections used in intra-oral imaging technique and their application.
4. Describe characteristics of a good image, including quality, quantity, and intensity.
5. Discuss dental film, including speed, sizes, components of the packet, and storage.
6. Explain film processing in automatic film processors, including temperature and chemicals.
7. Describe the hazardous chemical in processing and precautions for handling and disposal.

Duplicating Films, Legal and Ethical Implications

8. Describe the processes for duplicating film.
9. Explain the HIPAA records release protocol for transferring radiographic images.
10. Explain who owns the images.

Occlusal Technique

11. Explain the purpose and technique for exposing occlusal radiographs.
12. Identify the landmarks present in maxillary and mandibular occlusal radiographic images

Extra-oral Imaging

13. Describe the purpose and use of extra-oral radiographic imaging.
14. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of extra-oral radiographic imaging.
15. Explain the purpose of an intensifying screen.
16. List anatomical landmarks visible on a panorex.
17. Compare and contrast the anatomical landmarks visible on an FMX and panorex.

Periodontal patient (Vertical Bitewings and the Slob Rule)

18. Describe the reasoning for exposing vertical bitewing.

19. Identify landmarks on the vertical bitewing images.
20. Describe different exposure techniques for specialty practices, including the "SLOB rule".

Endodontic patient

21. Discuss different radiographic images necessary for "Standard of Care" in the endodontic setting.
22. Characterize why each radiograph is necessary in endodontic images.
23. Identify the imaging technique used to produce an accurate endodontic images.
24. Identify landmarks in an endodontic working image and final image.

Specific Pre-Clinical Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

Film and Processing

1. Produce prescribed diagnostic quality full-mouth (FMX) radiograph images on patients using both the paralleling and bisecting techniques in digital and film-based formats.
2. Process dental x-ray films using the automated processor and quick fix technique.
3. Identify time, temperature, lighting and handling errors during film processing.
4. Discuss perimeters of quality assurance program and the eight annual tests recommended for dental equipment.
5. Distinguish between various anatomical landmarks and oral structures on radiographic images.
6. Recognize the appearance of oral lesions and pathology on radiographic images.
7. Identify existing restorations and demonstrate charting from dental x-rays.

Duplicating Films, Legal and Ethical Implications

8. Recognize the components of a records release as well as necessary chart notes.
9. Identify the steps and equipment utilized in duplicating traditional film.

Occlusal Technique

10. Demonstrate occlusal radiographic exposures on a manikin to the pre-clinical level.
11. Identify proper image

Extra-oral Imaging

12. Demonstrate preparing equipment and positioning the patient for panoramic image.
13. Identify extra-oral imaging errors and determine corrective measures.
14. Identify anatomy present on a panoramic image.
15. Expose a panorex on a manikin to the preclinical level.

Periodontal patient (Vertical Bitewings and the Slob Rule)

16. Demonstrate a vertical bitewing radiographic exposure on a manikin to the pre-clinical level.
17. Demonstrate "Same Lingual/Opposite Buccal" (SLOB) rule on a manikin to the pre-clinical level.

Endodontic patient

18. Demonstrate a working length radiographic exposure on a manikin to the pre-clinical level.

Specific Clinical Course Skill Sets (Objectives)

1. Demonstrate competence under direct faculty supervision, in exposing diagnostically acceptable full mouth dental images surveys (consisting of bitewing and periapical images) in 20 minutes or less using the paralleling or bisecting technique in the Dental Health Center or internship setting during the spring semester. Students must take a minimum of 5 FMXs on clinical patients, scoring 75% or above, with 1 FMX being for the proctored clinical exam required by the Dental Board of California to pass Radiation Safety.

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 lecture. 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 Lab Examinations

Practical examinations provide assessment for participation in the clinical setting. Students must earn a minimum of 75% on all RDA Skills Competency Tests to continue 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 5% or above on the second attempt, allowing for participation in the clinical and/or internship 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 and/or internship 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 Registered Dental Assistant Program courses.

Clinical Labs

During the spring semester the following is studied:

- Intra-oral examination, supplemental techniques, and extra-oral examination
- Scanning/processing procedures and darkroom protocol
- recognizing anatomical landmarks and abnormal conditions
- Identification and correction of faulty radiographs
- Placing and exposing dental images on manikins
- Radiographic records management

Prior to the end of the spring semester the students must demonstrate minimal clinical competence taking a full-mouth series consisting of 18 images, on five patients with one of the five patients used for clinical examination. All clinical radiography performance will be evaluated by the radiography instructor. Student will also be required to self-evaluate and must score 75% or better to pass the class and participate in the clinical/ internship sessions..

Clinical performance will be under faculty supervision of the radiography instructor in the clinical setting in DA 167, Advanced Dental Assistant Functions and Duties or under dentist supervision in the internship setting. The student must demonstrate exposure of a final Full Mouth Series under the direct supervision of the dental radiography faculty in a timed (20 minutes) and controlled environment for the final evaluation. The student must score 75% or above to successfully pass the course. The radiographic portion of the Program includes 36 didactic hours, 108 didactic hours, and over 12 hours of clinical instruction in radiography.

Additionally, to satisfy CODA requirements, students must have two acceptable full-mouth dental images with a 75% or better on a minimum of two Dental Health Center patients must occur prior to internship assignment.

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 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.

Special Note

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

Course Requirements/ Evaluation and Grading Policy

Overall Course Grade Calculation:

The overall course grade is weighted and determined by an average to generate a percentage determining the overall course grade.

Participation Portion: Pay Day - Work Readiness Points 5 points per lecture and 5 points per lab	Weighted 5% of total grade
Quiz Portion: 4 Quizzes (40 points each)	Weighted 15% of total grade
Lecture Exam Portion: 1 Lecture Exam (150 points)	Weighted 35% of total grade
1 Lecture Final Exam (350 points)	
Lab Assignment Portion: 1 Lab Assignment Full Mouth Series Evaluations Dexter in Traditional Film (100 points) 1 Lab Exposure and Processing Error Lab Activity (40 points) 3 Lab Activity Sheets (40 points each) 5 Clinical Patient Assignment Full Mouth Series Evaluation (100 points)	Weighted 10% of total grade
Practical (Lab) Exams: 6 RDA Skills Competency Tests (100 points each) 1 Final Timed Clinical Patient Assignment Full Mouth Series Evaluation (100 points)	Weighted 35% of total grade

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 Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1 - Tuesday, January 20 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 39 Dental Film and Processing

Chapter 41 Intraoral Imaging (Bisecting Technique, Errors, and Landmarks)

Week 1 - Tuesday, January 20 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 41.3, 39.3, 41.7, interpreting processing errors

Week 2 - Tuesday, January 27 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 39 Dental Film and Processing

Chapter 41 Intraoral Imaging (Bisecting Technique, Errors, and Landmarks)

Week 2 - Tuesday, January 27 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 41.3, 39.3, 41.7, worksheet activity interpreting processing errors

Week 3 - Tuesday, February 3 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 39 Duplicating Films

Chapter 40 Legal and Ethical Implications

Chapter 41 Intraoral Imaging

Week 3 - Tuesday, February 3 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 39.1, Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

LAB ASSIGNMENTS DUE – Film Full Mouth Series on Dexter in Traditional Film

– 3 Lab Activity Sheets

– 3 Lab Activity Exposure and Processing Error Sheet

Week 4 - Tuesday, February 10 (Lecture)

QUIZ #1 (Chapters 39, 40, 41)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 41 Occlusal Technique, Patients with Special Dental Needs (Edentulous/ Pediatric)

Week 4 - Tuesday, February 10 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 41.6, Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #1 – Automatic Film Processing and Interpretation of Errors

Week 5 - Tuesday, February 17 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 41 Occlusal Technique, Patients with Special Dental Needs (Edentulous/ Pediatric)

Week 5 - Tuesday, February 17 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 42.1, 42.2, 42.3, Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT DUE -Patient FMX #1 (Clinical/Internship Exposures)

CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT DUE -Patient FMX #2 (Clinical/Internship Exposures)

Week 6 - Tuesday, February 24 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 42 Extra Oral Imaging

Chapter 41 Recognizing Anatomical Landmarks

Week 6 - Tuesday, February 24 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 42.1, 42.2, 42.3, Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #2 –Exposing Occlusal Radiographs on a Pediatric Patient

Week 7 - Tuesday, March 3 (Lecture)**QUIZ #2 (Chapters 41, 42)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 42 Extra Oral Imaging

Chapter 41 Recognizing Anatomical Landmarks

Week 7 - Tuesday, March 3 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Interpreting Panoramic Images and Errors,

Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #3 – Preparing Equipment and Patient for Panoramic Imaging**Week 8 - Tuesday, March 10 (Lecture)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 42 Extra Oral Imaging

Chapter 41 Recognizing Anatomical Landmarks

Week 8 - Tuesday, March 10 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Interpreting Panoramic Images and Errors,

Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #4 – Interpreting Panoramic Images and Errors**Week 9 - Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 20****SPRING BREAK****Week 10 - Tuesday, March 24 (Lecture)****EXAM #1 (Chapters 39, 40, 41, 42)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 41 Periodontal Patient- Vertical Bitewings

Week 10 - Tuesday, March 24 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Vertical BWX, Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX

CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT DUE -Patient FMX #3 (Clinical/Internship Exposures)**CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT DUE -Patient FMX #4 (Clinical/Internship Exposures)****Week 11 - Tuesday, March 31****Cesar Chavez Day - HOLIDAY****Week 12 - Tuesday, April 7 (Lecture)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapter 41 Endodontic Patient

Week 12 - Tuesday, April 7 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: 41.3 w/ Dental Dam and Files, Practice Dental Dam Placement

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #5 – Exposing, Scanning and Mounting Vertical Bitewings**Week 13 - Tuesday, April 14 (Lecture)****QUIZ #3 (Chapter 41)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapters 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, Review for Radiation Health and Safety Exam

Week 13 - Tuesday, April 14 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX and Review Activities

RDA SKILLS COMPETENCY TEST #6- Expose Endodontic Radiograph with Dental Dam

Week 14 - Tuesday, April 21 (Lecture)

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapters 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, Review for Radiation Health and Safety Exam

Week 14 - Tuesday, April 21 (Lab)

Textbook Procedure Competencies: Evaluation of Clinical/ Internship FMX and Review Activities

CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT DUE -Patient FMX #5 (Clinical/Internship Exposures)**Week 15 - Tuesday, April 28 (Lecture)****QUIZ #4 (Cumulative- Error Corrections)**

Textbook reading assignment in preparation for lecture class:

Chapters 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, Review for Radiation Health and Safety Exam

Week 15 - Tuesday, April 28 (Lab)**FINAL TIMED CLINICAL PATIENT ASSIGNMENT FMX (20 MINUTES OR LESS)****Week 16 - Tuesday, May 5 (Lecture/ Lab)****FINAL LECTURE EXAM - RADIOGRAPHY****Week 17- Tuesday, May 12 (Lecture/ Lab)****RDA Application/ CDA Application**