

**COURSE & NUMBER** DA 63  
**FULL TITLE** Dental Specialties  
**SEMESTER** SPRING 2024

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, students will learn the theory and practice of assisting and instrumentation in dental specialties. Course emphasizes utilization of assistants in orthodontics, periodontics, pediatrics, and oral maxillofacial surgery and introduces terminology and instruments specifically for each specialty.

**UNITS** 3  
**CONTACT HOURS** 2 Lecture & 3 Laboratory  
**WEEKS** 17.5

**DAYS & TIMES** Friday Lecture: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Friday Lab: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (OR) 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
For Lecture & Lab - Meet in Room #4024

**RECOMMENDED ADVISORIES** None  
**PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES** Course Completion of DA 62

**INSTRUCTOR** Dino Kalfos, RDA, RDH, BS.  
Race Building Room #4024  
E-Mail: [dkalfos@santarosa.edu](mailto:dkalfos@santarosa.edu)

*Electronic communication will be conducted through email addresses registered with the school.*

**OFFICE HOURS** In Person: Friday 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM  
Online: By Appointment

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS** **Modern Dental Assisting, 13<sup>th</sup> Ed.**  
Bird and Robinson (2021).  
**Modern Dental Assisting, Student Workbook 13<sup>th</sup> Ed.**  
Bird and Robinson (2021).

**LECTURE MATERIALS:** All lecture materials are found on SRJC's CANVAS website.

**ONLINE MATERIALS:** A CANVAS online site will be utilized for this class. Students are responsible for checking the site daily for announcements and helpful supplemental materials. Students must also maintain a valid e-mail address with the College so that communications issued through this site are received.

### **OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the responsibilities of the Registered Dental Assistant in dental specialty practices: orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, and pediatric dentistry.
2. Assist the dental specialist in utilizing the appropriate tray set-ups, techniques, materials, equipment, and general patient care.
3. Implement appropriate protocols related to medical emergencies in the sedated patient.

### **TOPIC OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the scope of practice of each of the following dental specialties:
  - A. Orthodontics
  - B. Endodontics
  - C. Oral surgery
  - D. Pediatrics
  - E. Periodontology
2. Recognize dental instruments and prepare instrument tray set-ups for all dental specialty procedures.
3. Identify the classifications of malocclusion.
4. Recognize and operate equipment necessary to assist the dentist in a specialty procedure.
5. Describe the indications and contraindications of all the specialty treatment procedures.
6. Recognize and prepare the equipment used in nitrous oxide sedation.
7. Recognize and communicate clearly the level of patient sedation.
8. Recognize medical emergencies as related to patient sedation.
9. Describe the appropriate protocols as related to medical emergencies in the sedated patient.

### **CONTENT, TOPICS AND SCOPE**

\* = *These items are introduced in lecture, and the related skill is performed in the lab.*

1. Orthodontics
  - A. Classifications of malocclusion
  - B. Orthodontic instruments, materials, equipment, and tray set-ups\*

- C. Registered Dental Assistant orthodontic functions\*
- D. Indications and contraindications for orthodontic treatment
- 2. Periodontics
  - A. Classifications of periodontal disease
  - B. Periodontal procedure instruments, materials, equipment, and tray set-up\*
  - C. Periodontal charting\*
  - D. Rationale for various types of periodontal treatment
  - E. Role of the RDA in periodontal therapy\*
- 3. Endodontics
  - A. Indications and contraindications for endodontic treatment
  - B. Signs and symptoms of pulpal pathosis
  - C. Sequencing of steps in endodontic treatment\*
  - D. Endodontic instruments, materials, equipment, and tray set-up\*
  - E. Role of the RDA in endodontic therapy\*
- 4. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
  - A. Scope of treatment of oral and maxillofacial treatment
  - B. Referral of patients from a general dentist to the oral surgeon
  - C. Oral surgery instruments, material, equipment, and tray set-up\*
  - D. Indications and contraindications for oral surgery
  - E. Role of the RDA during oral surgery\*
  - F. Role of the RDA in monitoring patient sedation\*
- 5. Pediatric Dentistry
  - A. Description of the pediatric practice
  - B. Behavior patterns of pediatric patients and parents
  - C. Pit and fissure sealant placement
  - D. Review of common anxieties in pediatric dentistry
  - E. Role of an RDA in a pediatric practice
- 6. Administration of Nitrous Oxide Analgesia
  - A. Action of nitrous oxide
  - B. Equipment
  - C. The "fail safe" nitrous oxide system
  - D. Indications and contraindications for nitrous oxide analgesia
  - E. Role of the RDA in assisting with nitrous oxide
  - F. Recognition and implementation of appropriate protocols in medical emergencies as related to patient sedation

7. Laboratory Competencies
  - A. Electric pulp testing
  - B. Dry root canal
  - C. Endodontic instruments
  - D. Oral Surgery instruments
  - E. Electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring
  - F. Pulse oximeter
  - G. Suture removal
  - H. Periodontal dressing placement and removal
  - I. Occlusal and bite relationships
  - J. Orthodontic separators

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### Lecture Related Assignments:

1. Reading assignments in text and syllabus (15-25 pages per week)
2. Oral Presentation(s) (1-2)
3. Quizzes (7-9)
4. Workbook HW Assignments (10-15)
5. Midterm and final written exams
6. Quizzes (8-10)
7. Participation

#### Lab Related Assignments:

1. Lab Competency Evaluations (8-12)
  - A. Class performance(s)/role-playing included.
2. Dental Specialty Procedure - Poster Presentation
3. Dental Speciality - Oral/PPT Presentation
4. Midterm and final (competency exams)

### **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- In-person lectures
- Posted course material on CANVAS
- Reading and Student Workbook assignments
- Active Student Learning Activities
- Laboratory/Clinical demonstrations and weekly lab/clinic assignments
- Criterion based testing

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING INFORMATION**

Lecture Requirements	Points
- Quizzes (20pts) x 9	180
- Workbook HW (10pts) x 12	120
- Midterm Exam	50
- Final Exam	100
<b>Lecture Total: 450 points</b>	

Laboratory Requirements	Points
- Lab Evaluations (20pts) x 10	200
- Lab Evaluations (10pts) x 2	20
- Dental Speciality Poster Presentation	30
- Dental Speciality – Oral/PPT Presentation	50
- Midterm Exam	50
- Final Exam	100
<b>Laboratory Total: 450 points</b>	

**COMBINED LAB & LECTURE POINTS = 900 points**

<b>Grading Standard:</b>	
93 - 100%	A
85 - 92%	B
75 - 84%	C
65 - 74%	D
0 - 64%	F

**COURSE STANDARDS**

- Students must achieve a minimum standard of 75% in each of the laboratory/clinical and lecture components. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "D" or lower in the course. Extra Credit cannot be used to raise a failing grade to a passing grade

- Any student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychological, visual, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange accommodations must contact the instructor and Disability Resources Department the first week of the semester. All testing arrangements must be made two weeks prior to the exams.
- Late Assignment Policy: Deadlines for assignments are important for time management for both student and instructor. Unless otherwise specified in class, all assignments are due on the date/time specified. Completing assignments is required, not optional. All work must be completed to receive credit for the course. Late assignments will be penalized 20% for each day it is late. This will be monitored on Canvas. This refers to all days (Sunday-Saturday), not just days we meet for class. Make certain when uploading onto Canvas you are doing so under the correct assignment and in the correct format. Uploading errors are not considered reasons to accept a late assignment. Assignments that use document format links need to be compatible with Canvas and if Professor Kalfos cannot view the assignment, it will be considered missing.
- There will be no make-up quizzes – you must be on time and attend the entire class to be entitled to take the quiz – if you are late you will have to finish your quiz with the rest of the class.
- If you are absent, e-mail or call the instructor prior to class.
- Professional, self-motivated, and cooperative behavior is expected.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: PROFESSIONALISM & ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Santa Rosa Junior College's Dental Assisting Program believes that professionalism is an essential component to the development of a health care provider. Our program strives to nurture and develop strong levels of professional behavior. All dental assisting students are expected to demonstrate professionalism in behavior, communication, patient privacy, and judgment in the dental clinics, classrooms, and clinical rotation sites. All clinical and classroom faculty will offer feedback for this development by formal and informal means. Repetitive instances of non-professional behavior or speech at any time during matriculation in the program will not be tolerated and may result in program dismissal. A review of expectations and criteria for Professionalism is found in the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#).

**INSTRUCTOR ASSISTANCE:** All students are encouraged to seek assistance from the course instructor. If you have any questions concerning assignments, content, etc., or if a problem arises that warrants instructor help, please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment with the instructor at your earliest convenience.

***GETTING THE HELP THAT YOU NEED IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***

**REMEDIATION:** Any student achieving less than 75% on a quiz, exam (except the final), or project is required to arrange a meeting with the instructor to discuss deficiencies in their grade and arrange potential remediation. Remediation opportunities are provided to support students in their learning process and encourage improvement. Remediation with Professor Kalfos provides an opportunity to regain 25% credit, should the student provide sufficient evidence of subject matter comprehension.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:** Refer to the Quality Assurance plan found in your [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) to determine the assurances designed to ensure that the dental program adheres to the standards of care.

**CONFIDENTIALITY & HIPAA STATEMENT:** As a student at SRJC Dental Program, you have a legal and ethical responsibility to safeguard the privacy of all patients and protect the confidentiality and security of all health information. Protecting the confidentiality of patient information means protecting it from unauthorized use or disclosure in any format oral, FAX, written, or electronic. Patient confidentiality is a central obligation of patient care. Any breaches in patient confidentiality or privacy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

**STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT:** It is the responsibility of all students enrolled in the dental assisting program to read and comply with all policies found in the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#). Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

**ACADEMIC & ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students are expected to attend all sessions of the course in which they are enrolled. Students are expected to be prepared to begin class on time. A student may be dropped from the class when that student's absences exceed 10% of the total hours of class time; no more than 4 hours of lecture or lab sessions. Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for additional information.

**TARDINESS:** (Including leaving early) Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**DISABILITY RESOURCE DEPARTMENT:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**AI INTEGRATION GUIDELINES:** (Used only with instructor permission) Students may use AI tools for research, analysis, and other academic tasks, provided they have obtained explicit permission from the instructor for each specific instance of AI usage. While AI can be a powerful ally, the primary responsibility for understanding and applying course material remains with you. AI usage can not replace critical thinking, analysis, and learning efforts. Like any other scholarly resource, proper citation is crucial when referencing AI-generated content or utilizing AI tools. Indicate when AI has been used to assist in your work (when allowed) to ensure the integrity of your academic contributions. Plagiarism, whether AI-assisted or not, is a breach of academic integrity and will be treated accordingly.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:** Sonoma County Junior College District holds that its primary function is the development of intellectual curiosity, integrity, and accomplishment in an atmosphere that upholds the principles of academic freedom. All members of the academic community—student, faculty, staff, and administrator—must assume responsibility for providing an environment of the highest standards, characterized by a spirit of academic honesty and mutual respect. Because personal accountability is inherent in an academic community of integrity, this institution will not tolerate or ignore any form of academic dishonesty. Policy 3.11 Revised July 2012

**ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**PROFESSIONALISM CRITERIA:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**DISCRIMINATION & SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

**DISMISSAL POLICY:** Please refer to the [Dental Assisting Policy Manual](#) for this information.

### **AGREEMENT WITH STUDENTS**

This syllabus is an agreement, continued registration in this course means that you agree to the policies and procedures outlined in this syllabus. The syllabus is intended to give the student guidance on what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes to the course as needed.