



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

COURSE SPECIFICATION

CertHE Dental Nursing

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	CertHE Dental Nursing
Final Award	<i>CertHE Dental Nursing</i>
Exit Awards	<i>None</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U0923FTC/B751</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full Time & Part Time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>1 Year</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September October 2026 onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Dental, Health and Care Professions</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/dental-academy
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/certhe-dental-nursing Web page needs updating when approved
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	General Dental Council
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Level 4</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

Educational Aims

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop key transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise opportunities to advance in their education to enhance career opportunities.
- To develop an openness to or awareness of others, an appreciation of social and cultural diversity, a respect for human rights, and a sense of public or civic responsibility.

Subject Specific Aims

The Certificate in Higher Education for Dental Nurses aims to:

- Provide focused and progressive knowledge of dental nursing in preparation for employment in a wide variety of clinical areas (e.g. salaried dental services, hospital dental services, general dental practice).
- Develop problem solving skills and general /transferable skills to prepare students for employment as qualified dental nurses.
- Prepare students with the necessary skills to progress to further professional and/or undergraduate study.
- Provide the core skills and knowledge necessary for students to register as qualified dental nurses with the General Dental Council.
- Encourage students to start reflecting upon their practice.

The skills required of GDC registrants are covered in the following domains:

- **Clinical** – the range of skills required to deliver direct patient centred care, where registrants interact with patients, and also the essential technical skills, carried out in the absence of patients which support their care.
- **Communication** – the skills involved in effectively interacting with patients, their representatives, the public and colleagues and recording appropriate information to inform patient care.
- **Professionalism** – the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour consistent with the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct and to understand the importance of and demonstrate the values that are outlined within the NHS constitution, putting patients' needs first to promote confidence in the dental team.
- **Management and Leadership** – the skills and knowledge required to work effectively as a dental team, manage their own time, the team's resources and the ability to lead professional practices.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Core aspects of the scientific basis of dentistry, including biomedical science, behavioural science, communication and the principles of health and disease.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio
A2	Broader issues of the organisation and practice of dentistry, including standards of professionalism, equality and diversity, ethics and medico-legal considerations, medical emergencies, health and safety legislation and the maintenance of a safe working environment	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.	Written assignment and practical skills assessment.
A3	The clinical, technical and professional knowledge necessary to inform the practice of evidence based dental nursing and approaches for personal, professional development and continuous improvement.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement	Practical skills assessment, portfolio,
A4	The Dental Nurse's clinical contribution (within their scope of practice) within the provision of dental care in a range of organisational environments, considering GDC standards, legal and ethical responsibilities and relevant legislation.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops.	Written assignment and practical skills assessment.

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Identify, evaluate and interpret concepts and principles associated with their area of study.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment
B2	Present and evaluate data and to inform lines of argument.	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment.
B3	Develop a reflective approach to the practice of dental nursing.	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, work-based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment
B4	The broad principles of scientific research and evaluation of evidence necessary for an evidence-based approach to dental nursing	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.	Individual presentation, multi choice written exam

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate the specific practical skills required to practice safely as a dental nurse (safe beginner) working effectively as part of the wider dental team within the legal and ethical frameworks which inform practice as set out in the UoP Fitness to study guidance and the GDC Fitness to Practise guidance.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement	Written assignment, practical skills assessment, oral assessment and presentation.
C2	Communicate effectively at all levels in both scientific and professional contexts using verbal, non-verbal and written means.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment.
C3	Maintain a safe working environment and contribute to the delivery of patient centred dental care including first aid and medical emergencies.	Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Portfolio, oral assessment and presentation.
C4	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment and oral assessment.

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Demonstrate skills relevant to employment working independently and as part of a team.	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment.
D2	Be competent in the use of a range of information technology to demonstrate a range of learning skills relevant to Higher Education and lifelong learning.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.	Oral Assessment, presentation and portfolio.
D3	Acquire, analyse, process and communicate information in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems	Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops and tutorials, work-based learning and placement.	Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral assessment and presentation.
D4	Take responsibility for the planning and execution of own learning, reflecting on and evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses to establish a philosophy of continuing personal and professional planning and development.	Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.	Oral Assessment, presentation and portfolio.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations](#) will apply to this course. This course has an [Approved Course Exemption](#).

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **Dentistry**
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: General Dental Council
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards
- [HEOPS Dental Students – Standards of medical fitness to train \(2013\)](#)
- [https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/about-us/gdc-standards-for-education-september-2025.pdf?sfvrsn=ecc2702b_1](#)
- [https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/education-and-cpd/safe-practitioner-framework-2024/eqa-gui-011-spf-dental-nurse.pdf?sfvrsn=2e9b563_11](#)
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Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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