



**University Dental Hospital of Manchester
The School for Dental Care Professionals**

**City & Guilds Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry to Professional
Practice for Dental Nurses (Diploma) (5238-30)
Factsheet**

Summary

The School for Dental Care Professionals (SDCP'S) delivers the City & Guilds Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry to Professional Practice for Dental Nurses (Diploma) (5238-30) for trainee dental nurses who are working in a dental clinical practice/setting.

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is for adult learners aged 19 or above in England, who are either not eligible for or do not wish to complete an apprenticeship in Dental Nursing.

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification allows learners to gain knowledge, skills and behaviours required for employment and career progression in the dental field. The content covers and is mapped to the GDC Learning Outcomes for Dental Nurses and relevant National Occupational Standards.

Who developed and approved the qualification?

This qualification has been developed by City & Guilds and mapped to both the General Dental Council (GDC) - The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - Dental Nurse and Skills for Health National Occupational Standards.

How is the course qualification delivered?

- The programme is delivered, part time over 18 months, you will be expected to undertake the academic component of the programme by attending a study session for one morning per week (9.30am to 12.30pm).
- The programme is delivered via a blended learning approach, this is through MS Teams and face to face at the SDCP's.
- You will be assigned and supported by a designated Assessor/Mentor and Dental Nurse Tutor who are occupationally competent, have a wide range of experience in the profession, are GDC registrants and committed to your success.
- You will be allocated a workplace Mentor to provide onsite support and guidance.
- Throughout the programme and dental clinical practice/setting, you will gain the knowledge, skills, and behaviours to complete a portfolio of evidence.

When does the next course begin?

Courses are delivered throughout the duration of the year. If you are currently employed as a trainee dental nurse and wish to apply to undertake our *next* training programme the school can issue you with a covering letter as per GDC requirements to state that you are '*in training*' and are employed in the workplace as per standard 6.6.2 of '*Standards for the Dental Team*' (2013).

Entry

To be eligible for the course you must:

- undertake an informal interview to ensure you can meet the requirements of the course. This qualification is not approved for use by trainee dental nurses under the age of 16, there is no upper age limit.
- be working in a clinical setting for a minimum of 3 days per week or a minimum of 22.5 hours per week, this does not include the study session.
- attend *all* academic study sessions weekly via a blended learning approach. You must be able to commit to attending the DCP school for face-to-face sessions and have access to a suitable electronic device to access remote Microsoft Teams sessions.
- have the full support of your employer, both within your clinical environment and attending all your timetabled study sessions.
- carry out a variety of dental procedures and treatments to meet the requirements of the qualification.
- be able to commit to 100% attendance on the given study sessions for the 18-month duration of programme.

Course content, qualification structure and cost.

A significant amount of training to become a qualified dental nurse is undertaken in the dental clinical practice/setting. Here you will develop your skills as a trainee dental nurse. The DCP school will work closely with your employer whilst you are undertaking *all* aspects of your training during the 18-month programme.

To gain this qualification, the learner must achieve all of the evidence requirements in the Units, gain a pass mark in the Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) tests and pass a summative practical observation.

There must be evidence of a **minimum of three** observations in the dental clinical practice/setting, which can be holistic in nature and cover several units across the qualification. Observations must be carried out by a qualified Assessor. Dental procedures not observed within the three holistic observations may be carried out by an Expert Witness Testimony.

Additional minimum evidence requirements are included in each unit, to reflect the minimum requirements required for the portfolio. Where outcomes **are not** required to be covered by the portfolio, these will be incorporated within the MCQ tests.

The content assessed in the MCQ tests are clearly identified in each unit. The content of these will be delivered during the academic blended learning sessions. Trainee dental nurses will be advised to provide evidence of content, which can then be used as revision materials to help prepare for the MCQ tests.

NHS Practices/NHS employees that operate within the NHS England catchment areas of Cumbria/Lancashire, Cheshire/Merseyside, Greater Manchester will receive full funding for the course. Private Practice employers and/or NHS practices that operate outside of the NHS England catchment areas; are unfortunately not eligible for funding. A fee of £1,800 will be required, the discussion of payment will be carried out at your interview.

The trainee must complete ongoing assessments to achieve all 11 mandatory units of the City & Guilds Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry to Professional Practice for Dental Nurses (Diploma):

Unit	Unit title	GLH
301	Preparing for professional practice in dental nursing	44
302	Health and safety practices in the dental setting	35
303	Prevention and control of infection in the dental setting	44
304	Dental and regional anatomy, oral health assessments and treatment planning	41
305	Recognising and supporting actions during first aid and medical emergencies	28
306	The safe use of ionizing radiation to produce quality radiographic images	32
307	Provide support for the control of periodontal disease and caries, and the restoration of cavities	29
308	Provide support during the stages of prosthetic treatments	28
309	Provide support during the stages of endodontic procedures	24
310	Provide support during extractions and minor oral surgery	25
311	Scientific and practical information to support the patient's oral and physical health	51

Summary of assessment grading

Assessment component	Method	Duration	Marks	Marking	Grading
501	MCQ online test	45 mins	30	Externally marked	Pass/fail
502	MCQ online test	45 mins	30	Externally marked	Pass/fail
330	Portfolio of evidence	n/a	n/a	Internally marked	Pass/fail
331	Summative Practical observation	60 mins	n/a	Internally marked	Pass/fail

MCQ assessments:

The learner must pass the two multiple choice questions (MCQ) assessment components, 501 and 502. These are scheduled in line with the programme delivery.

Assessment component 501 covers units 301, 302, 303, 305 and 306. Assessment component 502 covers units 304, 307, 308, 309, 310 and 311. The assessments are designed to assess learners' knowledge and understanding of the content of the qualification by using a range of question types. It will be sat online and invigilated under examination conditions.

Portfolio of evidence:

The learner **must** provide evidence which meets the minimum evidence requirements for each unit. Where learning outcomes are not required to be covered by the portfolio of evidence, these will be sampled within the MCQ assessments.

As part of the portfolio of evidence, there is a minimum requirement of **three** observations of practice in the dental clinical practice/setting (workplace), these must be carried out by a qualified Assessor. The three observations are intended to be holistic in nature, gathering evidence from across multiple units within each observation, where this is possible. Dental procedures not observed within the three holistic observations may be carried out by an Expert Witness Testimony.

Practical observation:

The summative practical observation is a final assessment that occurs following completion of the **three** practical observations undertaken as part of the portfolio of evidence. A final observation of practice allows the Assessor to observe the learner during their normal everyday work, applying knowledge, using practical skills, and demonstrating behaviours in real time. This method of assessment in a real work situation is deemed the most appropriate method to use to assess competence due to the practical nature of the occupation.

The Team who delivers the qualification

The team delivering the qualification is occupationally competent, comprised of GDC-registered professionals with extensive experience in the field, and fully committed to your success.

Registration with the GDC and opportunities for further progression

Successful completion of this qualification enables individuals to apply for registration with the GDC as a Dental Nurse. Once registered, they are recognised as qualified and competent to work in a clinical dental setting. Registration also opens the door to further career progression within the dental profession.

Opportunities for consideration may include, but are not limited to:

- Specialist dental nursing roles.
- Dental hygiene or therapy.
- Dental technology.
- Dental decontamination.
- Teaching/mentoring/coaching.
- Practice management.

Further information/enquiries

If you are interested in applying, please complete the attached application form and return it either by post or email to admin.dcp@mft.nhs.uk If you would like to discuss the programme with a member of the team, please telephone; 0161 272 5670.