

Dental Nursing Level 3 Diploma

Required qualifications for dental nurses

This course is for employed dental nurses. General Dental Council (GDC) requirements state that dental nurses should hold, or be working towards, the qualifications. To register with the GDC both qualifications need to be obtained. However the course is much more than a certificate of competence.

It will help dental nurses take a more important and responsible role in the practice and improve standards of customer service and care, making a big impact on the operation of your dental business.

The qualification is for dental nurses who provide patient care, direct chairside work and support during a range of dental treatments. It also covers aspects of practice management. Staff carrying out these roles will gain considerable knowledge and skills in relation to dental equipment, instruments, materials and procedures. For those candidates who don't have a sufficient standard of English to go straight into Level 3, the College runs a literacy support programme tailored to dental nurses.

Delivery and Costs

Learners will spend one evening or morning (3 hours) per week in the college, learning necessary job theory and developing key employment skills.

An assessor will visit learners in the workplace at agreed times to observe practical work and put together the portfolio needed for qualification.

We have intakes in January, March and September from our Merton centre. We also have a September intake in our partner colleges in Uckfield and Hailsham. The course will take approximately 1 year to complete. We are currently looking to expand to our Tooting and Wandsworth centres, so enquiries are very welcome from those to whom this may be more convenient.

Course Content

The QCF Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing is made up of 16 units. Candidates must complete all the units some of which include:

- Provide basic life support.
- Prepare and maintain environments, instruments, and equipment for clinical dental procedures.
- Contribute to the production of dental radiographs.
- Provide chair side support during the extraction of teeth and minor surgery
- Reflect on and develop your practice.
- Provide chair side support during the assessment of patients' oral health.

Within these 16 units is the VRQ examination which takes place on the first Friday in March, June and December. This is made up of multiple choice questions and short answers.

Progression

There are currently a number of progression routes open to dental nurses. They may move into:

- Dental Hygiene or Therapy
- Dental Practice Management
- Teaching Dental Nursing

Employment Skills

A range of other courses are provided, helping employers and staff access government-funded training through 'Train to Gain'. We can also work with you, designing tailor-made programmes. For advice on how we can help you in sectors including facilities, care, customer service and catering, please contact us.

Contact Us

please contact our business development team on 020 8918 7272
e-mail business@south-thames.ac.uk
www.south-thames.ac.uk/employers