PUGET SOUND SKILLS CENTER

Dental Assisting I Syllabus 2026-27

Session Information

1st Session: 7:55am – 10:25am 2nd Session: 11:15am – 1:45pm * Monday – Friday

* Students from Tahoma and Federal Way are dismissed at 1:25pm and must complete the day's exit ticket to account for the missed time.

Class Location: Health Sciences Building
PSSC Room # 1340

Teacher Information

Name: Jean Hendrickson **Phone:** 206.631.7364
Email: jean.hendrickson@highlineschools.org
Office Hours: 7:25am – 2:15pm
Email is the best way to contact me.

Culture of Learning

This class reinforces PSSC's school-wide Behavioral Agreements:

Be Present, Be Respectful, Be Engaged and Be Professional.

Students and teachers will create their own classroom version of these agreements in their class charter, through thoughtful discussion from the perspective of their industry's expectations. These agreements will be upheld through a positive, progressive support system including regular check-ins with individual students, quarterly self-assessments, positive reinforcement strategies, contact with sending schools, dialog with families, and interventions from our Student Success Dean as needed.

Course Description

The primary function of the Dental Assistant Program is to assist you in gaining employment skills. Prepares students with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the dental health care professional within the application of dental care. This program provides an introduction into the field of dentistry, with preparation for entry-level job opportunities. This program will operate as a real-world dental clinic as close as possible. You will also have an opportunity to develop leadership skills while maintaining professionalism. The curriculum will consist of in-person classroom and clinical learning activities. Classroom theory along with hands-on skills are taught in the classroom, clinic, and dental lab. This program has additional skills and an opportunity for students who may gain further experience in our second-year program. With an externship in a dental assisting setting. In addition to registration, provide evidence of completion of Blood Borne pathogen education and training. Provide valid health care provider with a basic life support (BLS) certificate, and a First aid certificate.

Student Learning Outcomes

The Dental Assistant career diploma program prepares students for an entry-level position as a Dental Assistant. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to...

- Students will understand the personality traits, characteristics, and qualifications required to be a successful dental assistant along with the elements of ethics and HIPAA rules
- Students will understand the anatomy and physiology of the head, neck, and the oral cavity, including parts of the teeth and types of teeth and how they're charted in a dental office
- Students will demonstrate preventive dental care and understand dental caries.
- Students will be able to identify infectious diseases, the modes of disease transmission, and their relationship to patients and occupational risks in a dental office.
- Students will understand the aspects of preventing disease transmission in a dental office, including occupational safety and administrative protocols.
- Students will be able to take radiographic images, including documentation, patient care, equipment, materials, and occupational safety, infection control, and administrative protocols.
- Students will explore procedures used when assisting a dentist and/or dental hygienist in a dental office, including the materials and equipment used, documentation, and assisting with emergency situations, patients.
- Students will demonstrate how to clean and sterilize dental instruments.
- Students will understand the front office responsibilities of a dental assistant, including scheduling, CTD codes, and other duties using both physical and digital methods.
- Students will be able to develop strategies for seeking employment and resume preparation.

Essential Standards

This section will be updated at a later date.

Scope and Sequence

This section will be updated at a later date.

Professional Attire & Uniform Requirements

Students must wear a lanyard with their PSSC Student ID daily, and PSSC-provided attire and/or program-specific uniform as directed.

Scrubs or PSSC Tee shirt.

Clinical Requirements and Attire:
Safety guidelines will include the proper Personal Protection Equipment and protocols for the protection of you, your classmates, and potential patients. Be aware and mindful of personal space working close proximity to others. Approach patient and classmates with care and ensure that you explain any procedures or movements that require entering their personal body space. If you have an issue with personal space and/or touching Patients and students, please inform your instructor.
Reference
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10131170/

Clinical Attire
Black Scrubs, top and bottom and lab coat
Proper PPE
(Gloves, Mask, Safety glasses, and Gown) according to CDC and OSHA Standards.

Hair Pulled Back
Closed Toe Shoes according to OSHA standards
Clinical Hijab (if this is your cultural practice)
Short trimmed nails/ no acrylic nails

Dress Standards & Expectations for Student Appearance

Required Materials and Program Costs

There are no classroom fees, and uniforms will be provided. If you want your uniform customized, then that will need to be paid for by you. If you want your uniform customized, then that will need to be paid for. There may be additional costs for HOSA conventions and competitions.

Required Materials:

- 3-ring binder 2 inches
- # 2 Pencils, Pens, Highlighter
- Red and Blue pencil and erasable pens Colored Pencils and Marking Pens
- Paper
- Hair ties or holder (For long hair)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Closed-toed shoes (for clinic)
- Scrubs
- Clinical Hijab (If this is your cultural preference)
- Personal Googles with side shields
- Dental Model Brushing Flossing Practice Teeth Typodonts Mode Gingiva Visible Anatomic Demonstration Teaching Studying Standard Size optional
- https://www.amazon.com/DENTALMALL-Brushing-Flossing-Typodonts-Demonstration/dp/B07KYGDFR8/ref=sr_1_6?crid=T0YU06ASHOCR&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.jKLLjzE8utCt4dwMuJ_VqbJYTws1l-CbqpLJpDAkglktpgqx4TyG3L3keQAfKyRbFA5I8i03vlD9NxhEyeGZRM6JcKtYRywsdwrFLFIPh9xnTJXtUTfxHRSxs4cT6QHLfXj2USxsadhtw-ARIS9mitpTzERIktYvbLZbnJmz2op0jmKeMclYLeaqpUwp2lQk-Y3Wk9KJXENqpUpuTbnDKrUrAHbft_d26XQhvRTeftU.byY5e-8p-ox3dbKyStX0OvjlXt8Ip_6ffq3eJrCo910&dib_tag=se&keywords=mouth+models&qid=1750880665&sprefix=mouth+models%2Caps%2C126&sr=8-6

- Styrofoam head female optional

https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChsSEwiqxdKCrI2OAxUEKa0GHS1jIJsYACICCAEQExoCcHY&co=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIqsXSgqyNjgMVBCmtBh0tYyCbEAQYAiABEgJuZvD_BwE&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAASJeRoX45iB_7R8jwEg1dEG6EIFaTi9ZxQCzkjxzZbVWMEi8647I8&category=acrcp_v1_41&sig=AOD64_0IOig4TXSCw8WKhRnsqwabZyL4bQ&ctype=5&q=&ved=2ahUKEwja782CrI2OAxWjJTQIHWhuDbIQ9aACKAB6BAgLECs&adurl=

Course Technology

This course utilizes Microsoft Teams for Education, and access information will be shared with students and available for parents/guardians as needed. Further this class uses the following software tools used in the industry:

Ever-Fi, My Career-Tech, ClassLink, Career Safe, Synergy, StudentVUE, ParentVUE, Parent Square, Dentrix, Dexis, Dentrix, and Flipgrid

3.0 Credits Offered Per Year

High School Equivalency Credits
Students will be enrolled in multiple gradebooks that reflect the equivalency credits available. **Some course equivalencies may not be taught and assessed until later in the school year. Students may not have a progress grade recorded for these equivalencies until that time.** Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

1.0 Dental Careers/Elective Credit
1.0 Lab Science Credit
1.0 Health Credit

College Dual Credits
PSSC dual credit programs give students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Most programs have "Dual Credit Articulations" with specific colleges, and others are College in the High School (CiHS) courses such as those with Central Washington University. These credits may only be earned by successfully completing the course and all of the requirements set forth by the colleges. Most dual credit articulations require students earn a C or better for every semester in the program, though some require a B. CiHS programs will have additional information listed on their syllabus.

Highline College

HEAL 102 Introduction to Healthcare Professions	3 credits
HEAL 218 CPR & BLS for Healthcare Providers	2 credits
HEAL 226 Healthcare Communication	3 credits
HEAL 230 Job Readiness	2 credits

Renton Technical College

AMATH 161G Mathematics	5 credits

Standards-Based Grading

Grades are a reflection of learning. Student work is scored on rubrics for the grade-level standards we are learning. Students demonstrate learning through assignments, activities, and assessments.

- Formative Assessments: Measures understanding during a learning experience
- Summative Assessments: Measures understanding after a learning experience is complete
- Reassessments: Measures understanding after more learning (see below)

Learn more about standards-based grading: highlineschools.org/grading
[Here are some examples of how teachers can communicate the importance of students completing formative assessments:

- Formative assessments are required because they help you practice skills and give you feedback on your learning before the summative assessment.
- The most recent scores of formative or summative assessments are generally used to calculate your grade. Formative assessments you complete early in the semester provide you with feedback on your learning and guide you on how to improve your grade.]

[Whenever possible, assessments should cover the entire standard. However, we recognize many standards take more than three to four weeks to teach. Read more about this in the Standards Based Grading Handbook.

Assessment Methods

- Formative quizzes and summative exams
- Peer and self-assessment
- Class discussions and debate participation
- Skills demonstrations
- Research projects and presentations

- Case studies and real-world scenarios
- Clinical and lab skills
- Industry recognized certifications (no reassessment)
- Capstone project/interview (no reassessment)

End of Course Exams

At the end of each semester, students will take an End-of-Course exam that will include a written exam, and a practical (hands-on) exam. These exams are designed to measure student mastery of program competencies, ensure alignment with industry expectations, and support student readiness for workforce or advanced program placement.

Student Expectations and Support Needs

Students are expected to fully engage in our learning community and complete all assignments as part of individual and collective learning. Please contact me if you need additional time to complete work or need support to engage in our learning community. If you struggle to complete work and engage in our learning community, I will schedule a meeting with your family to discuss concerns and identify ways to support your learning.

Our goal is to maximize each student's opportunity for success in life and work, but some students may need support beyond what PSSC is able to provide. We will work with the staff at sending schools and families to make reasonable efforts in accommodation. However, industry-mandated safety standards and expectations are non-negotiable items.

PSSC classes are 2 ½ hour blocks, and CTE preparatory courses. The ability to be self-motivated and work without direct oversight and redirection is crucial to success. Teamwork and working independently are both necessary skills in life and expectations in the workplace. These 21st Century Skills standards are as important as the technical skills students can master. In situations where these standards cannot be met with accommodations provided, we will work with the necessary parties to ensure a more suitable placement.

Expectations for Independent Work

PSSC students are expected to work successfully in teams and independently toward skills mastery, as they would in industry. Independent work within the program (student projects) must align with the program's curriculum and framework. Students working on their Capstone Showcase or Community Impact Project should choose something that demonstrates their advanced levels of mastery in their program content. Students will complete a project training plan that details the skills, standards, and assessment criteria which will be used to determine the project's grade.

Reassessment Policy

Continued learning is necessary and always encouraged when you do not yet show proficiency in a standard. I will share reassessment opportunities for you to improve your grades.

Reassessment Opportunities

Reassessment opportunities will be determined by the instructor and clearly published, including how reassessment is earned, and how long it may be available. Not all assignments and evaluations are eligible for reassessment, especially those done in a lab setting.

Grades

In StudentVUE and ParentVUE, the most recent scores for essential standards are averaged and generate a letter grade based on this scale*:

- **A: 4.0-3.2 -** Student meets most standards and exceeds some.
- **B: 3.19-2.4** - Student is meeting most standards and may be approaching or exceeding some.
- **C: 2.39-1.6** - Student is approaching most standards and may be beginning or meeting on some.

- **D: 1.59-1.2** - Student is beginning on most standards and may be approaching some.
- **NC: 1.19-0.00** - Student has not yet demonstrated learning on most standards and may be beginning in some. In high school, the NC does not earn credit for a course.

*These are general descriptions and there may be exceptions.

Recommended Academic Skills

Students in all programs will be working toward several Industry Recognized Certifications (IRCs), including ones focused on their career field, and ones that are useful in any job setting. Many programs are also "College in the High School" courses taught and graded to that college's standards. Because these IRCs and college-level courses require advanced academic ability, students will have the greatest success in earning these certifications and/or college credit with the following skills:

Reading Level: 10th Grade Level
Math Level: 10th Grade Level

Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRCs)

Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRCs) are an important component of every program at PSSC. Some of these certifications will be specific to the industry you are training for and are a requirement for entering the workforce. Some of them will be beneficial no matter what career field you enter. It is projected that more than 75% of jobs in Washington state will require credentials, certifications and/or education beyond a high school diploma, so our students are getting a head start. Every student will complete at least one IRC.

- BLS CPR
- First Aid American Heart Association
- HIPAA
- OSHA
- Blood Borne Pathogen
- Dental Registration Washington State Department of Health (seniors)

PSSC Capstone Project

To successfully complete your Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at PSSC, you must complete a Capstone Project and present it. This is mandatory for earning credit during 2nd semester and could impact your ability to earn the CTE graduation pathway. This project demonstrates the skills and knowledge you've gained throughout your time in the program, the IRCs you have earned, and readiness to enter your chosen career field or continue your education. It will also include a showcase of your best work. It is a graduation requirement that cannot be waived. You will be given a checklist with the requirements.
Along with your main project, all students must complete the essential professional documents including:

- a resume
- a cover letter
- a thank you email
- an reference request email
- a reference list
- a showcase of exemplar work to be presented
- and a written reflection essay summarizing the year's learning and your plan for the future
- performance evaluations (student monthly or quarterly self-reflections & teacher feedback)

Capstone Project Showcase for 1st Year Students:

- Complete a presentation of your capstone and your best work to industry professionals, family, and/or friends, as required by your program.

Community Impact Project for 2nd Year Students:

- Research and complete an individual or group project that showcases multiple industry skills mastered and meets a need in the community. 2nd year students will have already completed the minimum professional documents requirements during the previous year, though their resume should be updated regularly.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

WBL is an instructional strategy that provides students with career exploration opportunities and hands-on learning where knowledge gained in CTE courses can be applied to real-life work experiences. The goal of every work-based learning program is to prepare students for the next generation of the workforce. PSSC students will participate in WBL through their program, and some may earn elective credits.

All PSSC students will participate in some form of Work-Based Learning, and fill out a contract at the beginning of the year to start the process.

Common WBL opportunities

- Job placement in career pathway
- Internships
- Clinicals
- Externships
- Field Trips to Industry Sites
- College Visits

Leadership

Leadership is a key component of (Program) where your student can be a member of a Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO). Our CTSO is HOSA. The purpose of HOSA is to encourage the development of vocational understanding, leadership qualities, social awareness, and a sense of responsibility to school and community. It is each student's choice as to how active they will become in HOSA.

Partial list of leadership opportunities:

Attend HOSA conferences and competitions, perform a community service project, be a student leader in your program, serve as an ASB representative, lead campus tours, volunteer for career days at elementary and middle schools, and others your class offers.

STUDENT PERSONAL SMART DEVICES POLICY (CELL PHONE, TABLETS, HEADPHONES/EAR PODS)

Purpose: The guiding language from Governor Ferguson is "Away for the Day" - To keep phones from disrupting learning, increased safety, productivity and well-being.

When Phones Must Be Put Away

- During class: Phones off or on Do Not Disturb, stored in designated classroom location
- Classroom breaks: No phone use while moving between spaces
- Restroom passes: Leave phone in classroom when using the restroom

When Phones Are Allowed

- Before school: Any time before the bell rings
- After school: Any time after your session's final bell

Emergency Communication

- Parents: Call the main office directly in emergencies at (206) 631-7300
- Students: Get a pass to use the office phone for urgent calls

Classroom Use & Exceptions

- No instructional use unless pre-approved by an administrator
- Computers available at all school sites for academic work
- Accommodations honored: Students with 504, IEP, MV, or Health Plans may use devices as documented

Consequences (Progressive)

1. First: Verbal reminder to store phone properly from the classroom instructor – documented in Synergy
2. Second: Phone confiscated by classroom instructor for the period; possible admin referral – documented in Synergy
3. Third: Admin referral and parent/guardian contact and phone to be held by the Dean of Student Success – documented in Synergy

Immediate referral if the disruption is significant or dangerous – documented in Synergy

Goal: These steps are instructive, not punitive, to maintain a respectful and safe learning environment.

Attendance Policy

The seat time mandate for CTE courses in Washington ensures students receive sufficient instructional hours and hands-on training time to master necessary technical skills. Prescribed minimum seat time safeguards the quality of CTE programs by allowing for in-depth classroom learning, adequate lab practice on equipment, and fulfillment of certification requirements. Upholding seat time standards is crucial for preparing a workforce with job-ready expertise to meet industry needs. To align with our 4 PSSC Agreements, all students will complete an attendance contract at the beginning of the year, signed by themselves and their parent/guardian.

Therefore, it is critical that students are present. **Whether excused or unexcused, missed time is missed**.

1. Upon entering the classroom, each student will scan the QR code to check in for the day and put their smart devices in the designated area in the classroom. It is their responsibility as a student to complete the QR code, so their presence is documented for the day. If they do not complete the QR code, the student will be marked absent.
2. As a professional courtesy, please contact the course instructor via email, voice text or phone call.
3. Absences may be excused **by a parent/guardian** by the following methods within 48 hours of the absence:
    a. Phone call to PSSC Attendance Specialist, Kelsey Gomez (206) 631-7353
    b. Email to Ms. Kelsey (kelsey.gomez@highlineschools.org)
    c. Text message to Ms. Kelsey through Google Voice at (425) 298-7345
    d. Hand-written note turned into PSSC Attendance Specialist Kesley Gomez
4. Please include the following information in the note, call or email:
    a. Student Name
    b. Parent/Guardian Name
    c. Program Name
    d. Date of the absence
    e. Reason for the absence
5. Students who are 18 years of age may excuse their own absence **in writing only** for the following reasons: school-related absence, medical appointment, or personal illness.
6. Prearranged absence forms are in the office. The form must be completed with all required signatures before departure date. This form will be shared with your sending school as well.
7. Reassessment opportunities will be determined and clearly published by the instructor. Not all assignments and evaluations are eligible for reassessment, especially those done in a lab setting.

Student Handbook: Link to student handbook here

Eligibility to Return as a 2nd Year Advanced Student

All PSSC students will have quarterly performance evaluations with their PSSC teachers to assess success in their program, and communication will take place with the student's success dean, sending school and families when additional supports are needed.

In order to return as a 2nd Year Advanced Student, they must demonstrate mastery of content and skills considered necessary by their industry-trained teacher(s) and pass the End-of-Course exam each semester. Students must also successfully earn the schoolwide and program specific required IRCs.

Students who are unable to complete the required skills, unable to pass the End-of-Course exams, and IRCs in one year may be eligible to return to PSSC for another year and additional time to complete those items, but would not have earned the advanced status to be considered a 2nd Year Advanced Student.

Students who return to PSSC and enroll in a different program will also be considered a 1st year student, as it is their first year in that program.

Students may attend the same program at PSSC for a maximum of two school years. However, this does not count summer school which is open to students who have finished the 8th grade until the summer before their senior year.

Students must complete a portfolio capstone project, complete blood borne pathogen and OSHA and earn a B or better.

Academic Honesty

We take academic honesty seriously. You are expected to maintain the highest levels of integrity. It is important that we assess what you know and can do independently so that we can accurately support your learning. Here are guidelines that ensure that you are upholding academic honesty:

- Do your own work: Do not copy or plagiarize someone else's work, including text, images, or ideas. Strive to produce original work that represents your own thoughts and ideas.
- Give credit: If you use a source such as a book, article, website or generative Artificial Intelligence, you must give appropriate credit. Include a citation that clearly identifies the source of your information.

Failure to uphold academic honesty will be addressed and corrected, including but not limited to re-doing the assignment and family conferences. Academic honesty ensures you are learning and growing in the most effective way possible.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Academic Integrity

AI tools may be used to support work in this class when specifically allowed by the teacher — but not to replace student thinking or voice. Students are expected to follow assignment-specific guidance and identify when AI is used in submitted work. Submitting AI-generated work as one’s own without permission or explanation is not acceptable and considered academic dishonesty.

Language Support

If you need language support to understand this document, contact your school office at 206-631-7300.
Si necesita ayuda con el idioma para comprender este documento, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de su escuela al 206-631-7300.
Nếu quí vị cần hỗ trợ về ngộn ngữ để hiểu tài liệu này, xin liên lạc với văn phòng trường học của con em quí vị số 206-631-7300.
Haddii aad u baahan tahay taageerada luqadda si aad u fahamto dukumeentigan, kala xidhiidh xafiiska dugsigaaga 206-631-7300.
ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। 206-631-7300.
اگر برای دانش‌آموز این سند به خدمات ترجمه نیاز دارید، لطفاً با شماره 2066317300 با تیم تماس گرفته حل مطلب نمایید.