Dental Assisting II 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 Science Building
PSSC # 1320

Teacher Information

Name: Yvonne Walker **Phone**: 206-631-7386
Email: Yvonne.walker@highlineschools.org
Office Hours: 7:25am –7:45, 1:45- 2:30
E-mail will be the most efficient way to communicate with the instructor.

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 and Counselor as needed.

Course Description

Course Content: This course is an advanced second year program of the dental assisting career pathway. Students will progress and increase their knowledge from the basic skills learned in year one and focus on more complex mastery and competency roles that are necessary to work in a dental practice. Students completing the dental program will have entry level skills to start their careers as a dental assistant and options to further their education at a post-secondary institution. Special emphasis will be on Work Based Learning Activities to include hands-on applications opportunities at Sea-Mar Dental Clinic and externships at various community offices and clinics.

Course Prerequisites: Dental Assisting I

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Student Learning Outcomes

- Apply appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for dental procedures.
- Preparing tray and operatory setups for different dental procedures.
- Identify oral diagnosis and treatment planning for clinical examinations.
- Understand the roles and career pathways of the Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist, Dentist, Receptionist, and other Specialty Roles within the dental community.
- Understanding crown and bridge procedures and Fabricating and Placing Provisional Crowns.
- Safely use digital radiography on Dexter, and patient and understand the side effects.
- Cultural awareness in the dental environment.
- Assisting in restorative procedures to include amalgam, composite, Fuji materials and moisture Control.
- Taking Impressions and making study models and bleach trays on classmates, and/or patients
- Understand Anesthesia and Pain Control for each patient.
- Applying pit and fissure sealants on classmates and patients.
- Understand the importance of sterilization procedures as an infection control protocol.
- The use of the intraoral camera for dental examinations.
- Understand preventive dentistry to include oral hygiene instruction, prophy, Fluoride varnish, Silver Fluoride Diamine, and disease progression.
- Dentrix office management to include charting, appointment set-ups and insurance claims.
- Create a set of oral health activities to engage individuals and group members that can be used in a community service setting.
- Understand and have a working knowledge of the applications of the various specialties such Endodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- Examine the role of nutrition in health, wellness, oral health disease prevention.
- Students will create a job ready Portfolio.
- Students will complete their required Capstone project and presentation for credit.
- Students will learn the benefits of financial literacy.

Credits Offered:

Credits per Semester: 1.5

Automatic Equivalency Credits (high school credit) *: 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.

Equivalency Credits Available: 1.0 Lab Science, 1.0 Health, 1.0 CTE

Dual College 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. These credits may only be earned by successfully completing the course and all of the requirements set forth by the colleges. Dual credit articulations require students to earn a C or better for every semester in the program.

College Credits that can be earned: Up to 10 credits

Essential Standards

CTE.EDT.09-12.01

- Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

CTE.EDT.09-12.02

- Digital Citizen: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

CTE.EDT.09-12.03

- Knowledge Constructor - Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

CTE.EDT.09-12.04

- Innovative Designer - Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.

CTE.EDT.09-12.05

- Computational Thinker - Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.

CTE.EDT.09-12.06

- Creative Communicator - Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

CTE.EDT.09-12.07

- Global Collaborator - Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.

Professional Attire & Uniform Requirements

Students must wear a lanyard with their student ID and black scrubs daily unless instructed by your teacher.

Grading Policies: We use Standards-Based Grading to assess student learning as per Highline Public Schools.

The grade scale is as follows:
4 (A; 3.2 - 4.0): MEETING most standards and maybe EXCEEDING on some.
3 (B; 2.4 - 3.19): MEETING most standards and maybe APPROACHING or EXCEEDING on some.
2 (C; 1.6 - 2.39): APPROACHING most standards and maybe BEGINNING or MEETING on some.
1 (D; 1.2 - 1.59): BEGINNING on most standards and maybe APPROACHING on some.
NC (NC; 0 - 1.19): NO EVIDENCE on most standards and maybe BEGINNING on some.
NC stands for No Credit. In high school, an NC does not earn credit for a course.

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
Evaluation from internship sites

Reassessment Opportunities: Reassessment opportunities will be determined by the instructor. Not all assignments and assessments are eligible for reassessment.

Student Support Needs: 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 accommodation provided, we will work with the necessary parties to ensure a more suitable placement.

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. These IRCs require advanced academic ability; students will have the greatest success in earning these certifications with the following skills:

- Reading Level - 11th grade or higher
- Math Level -Algebra or higher
- Science Level - Biology or Anatomy

Industry-Recognized Certifications: Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRCs) are an important component of the Dental Assisting program. 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.

The following certifications will be offered to the students:

- Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) with WA State Department of Health
- Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR & First Aid
- NELDA (National Entry Level Dental Assistant)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Certificate
- Infection Control Certificate
- Dentrix Office Certifications

PSSC Capstone Project Required:

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 and readiness to enter your chosen career field or continue your education. It is a graduation requirement that cannot be waived.

Along with your main project, all students must complete the essential professional documents including:

- A resume with references
- a cover letter
- A thank you email
- An email requesting a letter of recommendation
- a written reflection essay summarizing the year's learning and your plan for the future
- performance evaluations (student monthly self-reflections and quarterly teacher evaluations)

Capstone Project Showcase for 2nd Year Students:

- Research and complete an individual project that showcases multiple industry skills mastered, which will be evaluated by industry professionals. 2nd year students will have already completed the minimum portfolio requirements during the previous year.

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You will be provided with a checklist with all of the requirements.

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 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.

Required Materials: Microsoft Teams, Modern Dental Assisting, 12th Edition: Evolve Learning Platform, Next Gen Finance, Ever-Fi, Career Tech

Program Costs: There will no longer be any classroom fees and uniforms will be provided. If you want your uniform customized, then students may need to pay.

Course Technology: This course utilizes Microsoft Teams

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 (Career and Technology Education) 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 (Puget Sound Skills Center) students will participate in Work Based Learning through their CTE program and may earn elective credits.

- Students will complete a 20-hour pre-clinical rotation at Sea-Mar clinic/ or other dental offices.
- Students will complete a 90-hour internship at a dental office.

Common WBL opportunities

- Externships
- Sea-Mar Rotations
- Guest Speakers
- Field trips to industry related sites

All PSSC students will participate in Work Based Learning.

Leadership:
Leadership is a key component of Dental Assisting where you can be a member of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). HOSA encourages the development of vocational understanding, leadership qualities, social awareness, and a sense of responsibility to school and community. HOSA's mission is to "empower Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration, and experience."
List of opportunities:

- HOSA Membership
- HOSA Fall Conference
- HOSA Spring Leadership Conference and Competition
- HOSA International Leadership Conference and Competition
- Community Service
- ASB PSSC Program Leader/Officers
- Student Membership ADAA
- Life Smarts Team
- Stock Market Game Team
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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 meeting 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 time**.

1. If a student is tardy, they must scan the QR code in their classroom and fill out the form (code is changed weekly). It is their responsibility as a student to complete the QR code so their absence can be corrected to a tardy. 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, Google 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. Date of absence
d. 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: See PSSC Website

Academic Honesty

We take academic honesty seriously. You are expected to maintain the highest levels of integrity. It is important that we can 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 2 06-631-7300.
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.