

Certified Dental Assistant Program Review

Faculty of Health Sciences

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:

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Accepted by:

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Program Review: Certified Dental Assisting Certificate

Dean's Summary Report

Dr. Joanne MacLean

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The Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) certificate program resides within the School of Health Studies, in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Two and one half full-time members of faculty and three sessional instructors deliver courses culminating in the 10 month CDA Certificate. A total of 24 students are admitted to the cohort program each year. Applications to the program are stable and targeted recruitment of students is on-going. The job market for graduates is excellent.

CDA programs operate on the basis of accreditation provided by The Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). Requirements for educational program reviews involve an extensive review of institutional structure, educational program, administration/faculty/faculty development, educational support and services, clinic administration, research and scholarly activities, and program relationships. Detailed documentation and self-study outlining evidence addressing the accreditation requirements is submitted and followed by on site visitation by the CDAC review team. The CDA curriculum is balanced across theoretical, lab and clinical learning opportunities. The curriculum includes lecture, case-based learning, small group work activities, simulation, extensive laboratory practice, and clinical placements.

Members of faculty engaged a rigorous self-study review initiated in fall, 2015 and submitted their report to CDAC in accordance with the accreditation requirements in March, 2016. On May 16 and 17, 2016 CDAC representatives began a two-day site visit at UFV. Site visitors met with program administrators, faculty, staff, current students, Advisory Committee members, employer representatives, the Dean, and the Provost while on campus. The site visitors also toured all facilities and support services on the CEP campus and compiled a report of site information that was then forwarded to CDAC for review. The CDAC determines the eligibility of the program for accreditation.

The report of the site visitors to the CDAC affirmed the academic excellence of the CDA program and provided recognition to the UFV Dental Assisting program for the maximum period of seven years. The program was ***approved without reporting requirements***, a significant achievement and external support for the work of our faculty and program administrators.

The evaluation of the Dental Assisting program against CDAC accreditation requirements identified the following recommendations:

1. *That the DENT 135 Dental Radiography course outline include the learning objectives for the applied components of the course.*

ACTION: The course outline was revised to include the learning objectives for the applied components of the course.

TIME FRAME: Completed for the fall 2016 enrollment.

2. *That the Medical Alerts (MA) be consistently noted in the patient record, as described in the Patient Care Procedures Clinic Orientation booklet (page 14); and, that the audit form referencing the medical alert be revised.*

ACTION: The continuous care form has been updated to include a section for recording a MA consistent with that found on the health history form. This will prompt students/instructors to record a MA on the continuous care form so that it is sufficiently recorded in the patient record.

TIME FRAME: Completed for the fall 2016 enrollment.

3. *That the placement of patient records in clinic be revised so patient information is not visible to all; and that patient information is not in close proximity to the patient to avoid cross contamination.*

ACTION: To ensure confidentiality of patient information all records are kept in a closed client record binder. When students/instructors are not reviewing/documenting on client record forms the client record binder will be closed and stored in a fully encased plastic storage drawer located on the rear shelf at each dental operatory. This practice will negate cross contamination of client records. The outside of the plastic storage drawer will be considered part of the dental operatory and will be disinfected after each patient as per standard infection control practice.

TIME FRAME: Completed for the fall 2016 enrollment.

4. *That the program utilize an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, as stated in the program Safety Policy and Procedures Guide, and as recommended in the CDSBC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines.*

ACTION: Alcohol-free hand sanitizers were immediately removed from the dental clinic and replaced with hand sanitizer containing a 70% ethyl alcohol based as recommended by CDSBC.

TIME FRAME: Completed on May 17, 2016 and on-going practice.

The CDA program accreditation review involved a detailed analysis of specific curriculum competencies that address performance indicators for the profession of dental assisting. These competencies reflect the UFV Institutional Learning Outcomes via both theoretical and clinical components of the program. The program is responsive to emerging trends in oral care and dental assistant education. Further, the CDA program curriculum includes perspectives of patient care inclusive of the social determinants of health, especially as it relates to lower income patients. The program has set a strategic goal to expand dental health services to at-risk populations, and currently delivers clinics that include school children and indigenous populations that may be in need of but without access to dental care. The CDA program runs an annual health promotion day at the Chehalis School. This initiative involves students offering a series of teaching sessions that focus on oral health. The CDA program has also participated in the 5 Corners Community Outreach program which provides dental students with the opportunity to work with students from other disciplines and vulnerable populations.

Program strategic goals have been identified to include, for example, the use of hybrid learning opportunities utilizing online learning and dental technology; expanding inter-disciplinary learning using simulation; and engaging a Fraser Valley working group to explore collaborative opportunities.