Course Syllabus
Wayne County Community College District
DA 129  Legal, Ethical & Communication Issues

CREDIT HOURS:  2.00

CONTACT HOURS:  .00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This lecture course includes basic concepts in oral and written communication and applied psychology. The purpose of this course is to prepare students to work effectively with patients and the allied health team with in the law. Content areas include principles of human behavior, patient anxiety, special patients, coping mechanisms, principles of learning, verbal and nonverbal communications, and listening skills. The course will also explore the state and national dental practice acts as they pertain to members of the dental health team as well as explore the ethical role of team members through role-playing situations. Students will also prepare a resume and job search plan.

PREREQUISITES:  DA 110

EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

Dental Assisting Competencies:

- Competencies can be described by several basic characteristics. 1) a combination of knowledge, psychomotor skill, communication skill and/or attitude; and 2) independently performed at or above an acceptable level of a defined standard.

As a participating member of the health care team the dental assistant plays an integral role in the delivery of dental services to individuals and populations of all ages, including the medically compromised, mentally or physically challenged and socially or culturally disadvantaged. Each dental assisting course in the curriculum will strive to facilitate and certify the competence of the dental assisting student.

Upon completion of DA 129, the student will continue to acquire the following skills, knowledge and values as outlined in the document “Competencies for the Dental Assisting Graduate”.
Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- Collect diagnostic and treatment data.
- Manage infection hazard control.
- Perform clinical supportive treatments.
- Take diagnostic radiographs
- Perform dental laboratory procedures
- Provide patient oral health instructions.
- Assist in managing medical emergencies
- Model professional behaviors, ethics, and appearance
- Carry out dental office procedures
- Perform expanded functions legal in Michigan

**Course Objectives:** At the completion of the DA 129 course the student will be able to:

- **Communication & Patient Management**
  - Discuss what a patient's rights should be and compare it to the WCCCD patient's rights statements.
  - Identify several roadblocks to effective communication.
  - Give examples of verbal and non-verbal communication.
  - List 4 causes of stress and 4 recommended forms of stress reduction.
  - Describe the child's development from birth to adolescence and give examples of differences between chronological, mental, and emotional age.
  - Describe the special dental needs of patients including but not limited to: patients with Alzheimer’s disease, arthritis, asthma, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, Down syndrome, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, and severe kidney disease.
  - Differentiate between psychotic, neurotic, and normal behavior.
    - Identify various patient behaviors and their coping mechanisms.

- **Ethics & Jurisprudence**
  - Define professionalism and discuss characteristics.
  - Convey history of allied dental professions, including names of individuals who had a great impact on the profession of dentistry.
  - Emphasize importance of current trends in the dental profession.
  - Discuss professional image of the allied dental professions (DA, DH, DLT).
  - Interpret professional responsibilities in a health profession that include ethically based decision making.
• Identify and describe the responsibilities of the dental assistant, dentist, and other team members to the patients and to each other both ethically and legally.
• Identify the responsibilities of the dental team in regards to dental records, implied and informed consent, subpoenas, and the statue of limitations.
• Define ethics and give examples of the American Dental Association and American Dental Assistants Association principle of ethics; explain mission and purpose of these and other professional organizations.
• Explain the difference between ethical and legal considerations.
• Describe the role of the dental team in detecting and reporting abuse.
• Identify who oversees the Dental Practice Act and how licenses are obtained.
• Identify fraud and the service that can be given under the Good Samaritan Law.
• Define the difference between civil and criminal law; compare the concepts of civil law with criminal law, utilizing examples found in allied dental health practices.
• Define expanded functions and review the changes in the practice of allied dental professions focusing on educational requirements and credentialing as a profession.
• Identify the four areas of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
• Explain the purpose of a code of ethics.
• Discuss the guidelines for solving an ethical dilemma: ethical theories and principles that include a deontological and a teleological approach, and distinguish between the utilitarianism ethical theory and Kant’s ethical theory.
• Explain the purpose of licensure and the requirements to become licensed.
• Discuss how a dental assistant can help prevent malpractice lawsuits in terms of risk management.
• Discuss the concept of justice and apply the common good to the delivery of and access to oral health services, e.g., insurance, reimbursement, etc. in addition to direct dental care.
• Identify four pathways to obtain DANB certification.
• State the primary functions of the state dental practice act, the state board of dentistry and the Dental Assisting National Board.
• Discuss the duties allowed by law designated to the dental assistant or the registered dental assistant in the State of Michigan as well as state the appropriate supervision required.
• List the education required for and the professional organizations that represent each profession.
• Describe the process for reporting to the appropriate authorities the delivery of gross incompetent, impaired and/or illegal care being rendered.
• Attend a dental professional meeting while enrolled in the program.

**Employment Practices**

• Define how to prepare for an interview.
• Explain how to terminate employment.
• Develop a marketing plan and plan of action for finding and securing employment as a dental assistant.
• Prepare a typed resume and cover letter.
• Prepare a job search plan by setting goals and identifying sources to obtain employment in the dental field.
• Discuss the elements of an employment contract.
• Participate in a taped simulated job interview with a faculty person, counselor, or dentist.

ASSESSMENT METHODS:
Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral reports, group discussion, written reports or presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

GRADING SCALE:
A  = 94% to 100%
B  = 87% to 93%
C  = 80% to 86%
D  = 73% to 79%
E  = less than 72%