

# **University College Cork Diploma in Dental Nursing**

**Course Outline 2026-2028  
Full Time**



**Cork University Dental School & Hospital  
and  
University College Cork**

## **Introduction**

This full time University Diploma (level 7) in Dental Nursing was introduced to meet the demand for full time education in Dental Nursing.

This programme is specifically designed to meet the needs of the general dental community, Health Service Executive and Dental Schools. Successful completion of this programme will permit entry onto the voluntary register for Dental Nurses with the Dental Council of Ireland.

## **Course Overview**

The course aims to provide the student dental nurse with the practical skills supported by the theoretical knowledge for the understanding of the dental nurses' role and responsibilities as part of the dental team.

## **Course Duration**

This course is delivered over two academic years, commencing in September each year.

## **Course Award**

Registered students must:

- successfully pass all required assessments and examinations
- submit a completed Clinical Student Portfolio
- complete 2000 hours of clinical experience (over two academic years)
- hold a recognised Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider certificate accredited by the Irish Heart Foundation (organised by the Dental School and Hospital)

Students who have successfully completed all of the above will be awarded a Diploma (level 7) in Dental Nursing by University College Cork.

## **Course Structure**

A limited number of places are available on the full-time programme. Clinical Training placements (unpaid) are available in the Cork University Dental School and Hospital. Students undertaking the programme in this pathway will be required to attend the Cork University Dental School and Hospital from 9.00am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday (lecture timetable/schedule will be provided on commencement of this programme).

Outreach clinical training placements will also be organised during your period of study. These may take place at various times throughout both academic years in the Health Service Executive (HSE) and selected private practices.

Applications must be made online using UCC APPLY at the following link: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/dipdentnurs/> . Applicants may be invited to attend for interview.

Interviews may take place in the Cork University Dental School and Hospital, via MS Teams or Zoom. Candidates will be notified of which method will be used.

For further information, please contact Siobhán Shakeshaft at 021 4901160/087 1341228, Mary Harrington at 021 4205036/087 1907178 or Ms Pamela Binks at 021 4901184.

## **Course Delivery**

All academic sessions (lectures, demonstrations, tutorials) will be delivered using a range of appropriate teaching methodologies e.g. class room based lectures/tutorials and on-line learning.

All lecture notes will be made available on Canvas (Instructure) (all students will be given access to the relevant website on commencement of the course and completion of registration). It is the **sole responsibility of the student to download/print notes prior to each lecture. Computer and internet access is essential, broadband internet access will be beneficial.**

**Each student will be given a valid UCC student email address and UCC credentials to access this site.**

Practical sessions and competencies will be delivered on an ongoing basis throughout the duration of the programme, (check timetable for dates). **Attendance at all sessions is compulsory.**

A recommended reading list will be given to all students upon commencement of the programme. It is highly recommended that students purchase all books necessary for their study.

## **Assessment**

The programme is assessed on a continuous basis using a combination of written examinations and practical competence examinations that are held in the Dental School.

Students are required to complete the Clinical Student Portfolio/Reflective Learning Log which is a record of the students' clinical experience gained while enrolled in the UCC Diploma in Dental Nursing programme. It is a critical component of assessment, used to enhance the students learning and assess clinical skills. Students will be expected to complete the Student Portfolio/Reflective Learning Log while under the guidance of the supervising dentist, which then must be submitted for assessment to the Dental Nurse Tutors on specified dates.

Assignments will also have to be submitted which will display a competent understanding of dental nursing as a profession. Topics will be given to students when appropriate during their study.

## **Entry Requirements**

The following requirements are necessary for entry into the programme:

- A minimum Grade O6 in five subjects in the Leaving Certificate. Applications will be accepted from current Leaving Certificate students.

**OR**

- Be over the age of 23 years by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.

**Students undertaking the programme will be required to complete practical experience equivalent to 2000 hours. These hours will be gained in the clinical areas of the Cork University Dental School and Hospital or outreach placement and recorded in your clinical logbook (portfolio of experience).**

Applicants with other qualifications (e.g. qualifications from outside Ireland) will be considered on an individual basis and may be interviewed.

All students must regularly access the relevant website for essential course information / lectures and updates.

## **Student Garda Vetting**

You will be required to undergo Garda Vetting. You are being vetted because as part of your placement and/or research and/or some other UCC related activity, you will be working with children or vulnerable adults. Information will be sent to you directly from the Admissions Office via email. Please see more information on UCC's Student Vetting Policy <https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/admissionspolicies/>.

## **Student Health**

All students in UCC College of Medicine and Health must be immunised against Hepatitis B.

All students, except those who have confirmed acquired natural immunity through previous infection, are also recommended to have completed full courses of vaccines against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella Zoster, and Tuberculosis.

This infectious disease screening and immunisation programme is provided by the Student Health Department, which is responsible for certifying your immunity status prior to entry into the clinical component of your course. It is essential that you fully comply with all aspects of the programme, to protect you, your future patients and the clinics and hospitals you will be attached to.

**A fee will apply for these assessments, blood tests and vaccinations.**

## Selection Process

Successful applicants will be offered a place on the programme, and must confirm their acceptance by a specified date, which will be given in their letter/email of offer. Applicants will then be required to submit tuition fees to hold their place in the programme, which must be paid prior to commencement of the programme.

## Course Content

### Year 1

- DN1005 Dental Anatomy and Physiology (Oral & Systemic) for Dental Nursing (10 Credits)
- DN1002 Microbiology and Cross Infection Control for Dental Nurse (15 Credits)
- DN1001 Ethical Issues in the provision of Dental Care (5 Credits)
- DN1007 Dental Pathology and Disease (10 Credits)
- DN1008 Restorative Dentistry for Dental Nurses (10 Credits)
- DN1009 Oral Surgery for Dental Nurses (10 Credits)

### Year 2

- DN2115 Medical Emergencies for Dental Nurses (10 Credits)
- DN2111 Oral Health and Development for Dental Nurses (10 Credits)
- DN2112 Dental Practice Administration (5 Credits)
- DN2113 Clinical Student Portfolio (20 Credits)
- DN2116 Dental Research Based Project (15 Credits)

Please refer to the Book of Modules for further information at:

<http://www.ucc.ie/modules/descriptions/page121.html>

## Applications

The closing date for receipt of completed applications (application and supporting documentation) is 4pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Applications can be made via UCC APPLY at the following link:  
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/dipdentnurs/>

For further information please contact:

Ms Siobhán Shakeshaft  
Cork University Dental School & Hospital, Wilton, Cork  
Tel: 021 4901160; Email: [Siobhan.Shakeshaft@ucc.ie](mailto:Siobhan.Shakeshaft@ucc.ie)

OR

Ms Karen Hennessy  
Admissions Office, University College Cork  
Tel: 021 4903571: Email: [khennessy@ucc.ie](mailto:khennessy@ucc.ie)

## Programme Fees

**All applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of €50.** Applicants will pay an application fee to submit their application that is incorporated into the UCC APPLY platform.

**2026 Course Fee: The State will pay the tuition fees for students who satisfy the Free Fees Criteria. As a guideline, in 2026, the Student Contribution Fee is €3,000 and the Capitation Fee is €138.**

**This programme is not eligible for the SUSI grant.**

It is the responsibility of the student or prospective student to ensure that all course fees are paid on schedule. It is the policy of the Dental Hospital and University College Cork that all matters relating to fee payments, will only be discussed with the student directly and not a third party.

## Enquiries

Dental Nurse Tutor
Cork University Dental School & Hospital
Wilton
Cork
Telephone: 021 490 1160
E-mail: <a href="mailto:Siobhan.Shakeshaft@ucc.ie">Siobhan.Shakeshaft@ucc.ie</a>