

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 2970


27 January 2023

THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS' COUNCIL

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULA
AND EXAMINATIONS IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

The Minister of Health, in terms of section 50(1) of the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act No. 19 of 1979), and on the recommendation of the South African Dental Technicians Council of South Africa, hereby makes the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance; mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za) within three month of the date of publication of this notice.


DR M.J. PHAAHLA, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 14/11/2022

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall bear that meaning and, unless inconsistent with the context—

"accreditation" means the process conducted by the council or an external and impartial body approved by the council and reporting to council, to grant recognition and approval to the academic and training requirements and professional programme of studies at a training institution;

"curricula" means the academic programmes outlining the academic learning, clinical orientation and the development of dental technology skills, as well as the integration of the students' professional attitude and conduct;

"oral health appliances or prostheses" means any removable or fixed intra- or extra-oral prosthesis;

"programme" means the collective set of activities and assessments through which the curriculum is delivered;

"student" means a person registered as such with the council in terms of the Act;

"the Act" means the Dental Technicians Act, 1974 (Act No, 19 of 1979).

Requirements for undergraduate dental technology curriculum

2. (1) The dental technology curriculum of an approved institution must provide for—

- (a) academic learning;
- (b) training;
- (c) development of dental technology skills; and
- (d) development of professional attitudes and conduct.

(2) The curriculum contemplated in subregulation (1) must contribute to the development of students into dental technicians or dental technologists.

(3) The curriculum contemplated in subregulation (1) must—

- (a) convey knowledge, skills, attitudes and appropriate modes of professional conduct;
- (b) stimulate students to pursue continuous professional development as part of life-long learning;
- (c) develop research and management abilities where applicable; and
- (d) be relevant for conditions in South Africa while meeting international standards of excellence.

- (4) A core curriculum must be developed by each approved institution to ensure that students achieve the minimum core competencies or exit level outcomes as defined from time to time by Rule by the Council acting as a Standards Generating Body, as required by the South African Qualification Authority.
 - (a) The curriculum shall take cognizance of the resources and technologies currently available in South Africa.
 - (b) The curriculum must include courses on jurisprudence, bioethics and occupational health and safety.
 - (c) The curriculum content, teaching methods and assessment methods shall be designed to promote students' ability to—
 - i. source information;
 - ii. critically evaluate information;
 - iii. synthesize information from different sources; and
 - iv. solve problems.
 - (d) The curriculum must provide for work integrated learning using the most recent and evidence-based materials, techniques and equipment.

Contents of curriculum

- 3. (1) The undergraduate dental technology curriculum of an approved institution must provide for—
 - (a) applied knowledge and understanding of the normal structure, functions and development of the oro-facial region;
 - (b) applied knowledge and understanding of the dental materials used for oral prostheses;
 - (c) applied knowledge and understanding of scientific principles and concepts in the creation of oral health appliances or prostheses and the ability to think critically, analytically and creatively with regard to problem-solving;
 - (d) the ability to use dental and scientific terminology with confidence;
 - (e) understanding of the principles of therapy and disease management.
- (2) The undergraduate dental technology curriculum of an approved institution must include the learning of the following essential skills required for dental technology:

- (a) Skills in the creation, repair, and modification of oral health appliances or prostheses in the fields of—
 - (i) removable prosthodontics;
 - (ii) fixed prosthodontics;
 - (iii) maxillofacial prosthodontics;
 - (iv) orthodontics;
 - (b) skills in infection control procedures;
 - (c) basic computer and, where applicable, management and supervisory skills;
 - (d) communication skills;
 - (e) skills to assist in shade taking;
 - (f) ability to function as a member of a dental team and where appropriate, leadership skills;
 - (g) ability to operate and clean equipment and knowledge of basic equipment maintenance.
- (3) The undergraduate dental technology curriculum of an approved institution must include courses that teach appropriate attitudes and behaviour patterns to ensure the creation of quality oral health appliances.
- (4) The courses contemplated in subregulation (3) must include instruction on—
- (a) commitment to the oral health care of the community;
 - (b) recognition of the importance of working together as a team with clinicians;
 - (c) the establishment of a commitment to life-long learning;
 - (d) willingness to participate in self and peer evaluations;
 - (e) awareness of personal limitations and a willingness to seek help when necessary;
 - (f) recognition of and respect for human and patient rights;
 - (g) commitment to professional practice with due consideration for the ethics involved.
- (5) The undergraduate dental technology curriculum of an approved institution must include all the practical work as per the minimum items and number (quotas) as published by the Council from time to time by Rule.

Duration of study

4. (1) The qualifications in dental technology that may be obtained at an approved institution are—
 - (a) a Diploma, to be completed within a minimum period of two years and no more than three years;
 - (b) a Diploma, to be completed within a minimum period of three years and no more than five years;
 - (c) an Advanced Diploma to be completed within a minimum period of one year and no more than two years;
 - (d) a Postgraduate Diploma to be completed within a minimum period of one year and no more than two years;
 - (e) a Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree, to be completed within a minimum period of four years and no more than six years.
- (2) Each year of study for the qualifications contemplated in subregulation (1) must be at least 32 weeks in duration excluding assessment time.

Assessment of students in dental technology

5. (1) The affective, cognitive and psychomotor skills of a student must be acquired under supervision and assessed on a continuous basis; the psychomotor skills must be assessed by the use of criterion-referenced rubrics and related to the Minimum Requirements as determined by Council from time to time by Rule.
- (2) A student must in a balanced way be assessed on his or her application of knowledge and on his or her—
 - (a) practical skills;
 - (b) professional competence;
 - (c) bioethics; and
 - (c) social values.
- (3) The assessment and examination of prescribed modules may be integrated or divided at the discretion of the approved institution concerned.
- (4) In order to ensure continuous assessment, examiners must take into account the student's work throughout the course of study.
- (5) A student must pass both the practical and theory components of the assessment. The pass mark shall be as prescribed in the rules of the approved institution: provided that a student's mark for the practical

components of the assessment must not be condoned to a pass on the grounds that other components are satisfactory.

- (6) Each discipline or each component of a discipline as the case may be, of the final practical assessment must be passed. Should any discipline be failed and all other aspects of the final assessment have been passed, the failed disciplines must be re-assessed prior to the registration date of the following academic year.
- (7) The final student assessment must enable the approved institution to meet its legal obligation to certify that the candidate is competent to practise in a safe and effective manner in relation to the essential skills and competencies as defined by the council for the undergraduate programme.
- (8) Council may at its discretion and in line with the Regulations regarding registration and training of student Dental Technicians and student Dental Technologists appoint Council examiners to mark the final exit practical examination to determine suitability for registration.

Standard of education at approved institutions

- 6. (1) An approved institution must develop programmes that are—
 - (a) in line with the prescribed council guidelines and Regulations regarding registration and training of student Dental Technicians and student Dental Technologists and taking into account the guidelines of the Department of Education; and
 - (b) compliant with the principles as determined by the South African Qualifications Authority to qualify for recognition under the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008).
- (2) An approved institution must establish structures for the internal evaluation of programmes with a view to quality assurance and in preparation for external evaluation/accreditation.
- (3) An approved institution must, from time to time as determined by the council, submit progress reports to the council to ensure—
 - (a) implementation of these regulations and the guidelines referred to in subregulation (1); and
 - (b) establishment of the structures referred to in subregulation (2).