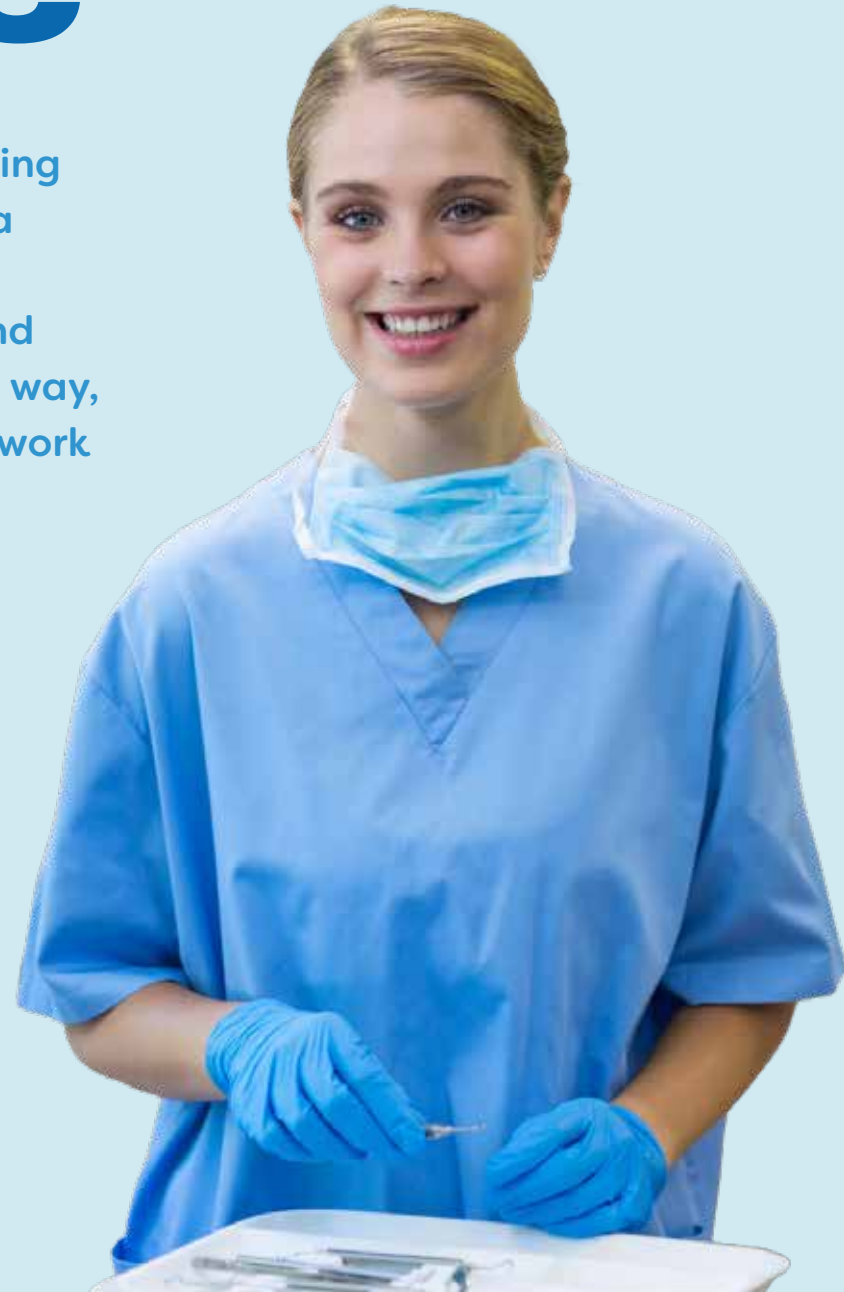


Level 3

Dental Nursing Practitioner Diploma

Welcome

Becoming a Dental Nurse is more than just a qualification – it's a chance to develop life-changing skills, grow your confidence, and build a career in a vital healthcare field. This programme is designed with you in mind, offering the tools, knowledge, and hands-on experience to help you thrive. Along the way, you'll be supported by dedicated tutors and a network of professionals who want to see you succeed. Every step brings new challenges, achievements, and opportunities to grow.



About us

Skills4Dental is a Dental Apprenticeship Training Provider dedicated to initiating and furthering the careers of Dental Nurses. We take pride in delivering high-quality training programmes to Apprentices and have a team of tutors ready to guide and support Apprentices on their journey to certification.

Course Information



Who is the course for?

Our Level 3 Dental Nurse Apprenticeship is an excellent opportunity to gain the skills, knowledge, and qualifications needed to build a successful career in Dental Nursing. With a mix of hands-on training and online learning, this programme equips learners with the expertise to provide exceptional patient care while earning a salary.

Course duration:

15 months plus Apprenticeship Assessment.

At Level 3, there are various topics that apprentices will learn including:

- ✓ **Dental Procedures** - Assist Dentists with treatments ranging from routine check-ups to advanced specialist procedures
- ✓ **Patient Care** - Provide high-quality support to patients, ensuring their comfort and well-being
- ✓ **Infection Control** - Set up and decontaminate, sterilise instruments, and maintain infection control procedures in the clinical environment
- ✓ **Equipment Handling** - Prepare instruments and materials for treatments and ensure all equipment is maintained
- ✓ **Record Management** - Update and manage patient records accurately and securely
- ✓ **Policy Adherence** - Follow practice policies, procedures, and health and safety guidelines

Apprenticeship Assessment

In order to achieve the Dental Nurse Apprenticeship, learners will be required to complete a final 60-minute clinical observation to confirm safety and competence. This, along with the passing of two knowledge tests and portfolio of evidence will be sent to the awarding body to complete the Apprenticeship Assessment process.

Daily Activities

**Assisting the
Dentist during
patient treatments**

**Sterilising
and preparing
instruments**

**Set up and
decontaminate the
surgery**

**Maintaining
and calibrating
equipment**

**Adhering to
infection control
protocols**

**Communicating
effectively with
patients and the
dental team**

Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing

The Dental Nursing Apprenticeship is a government-funded course accredited by City & Guilds. This programme follows a blended learning approach, combining online study with practical experience, and is delivered through an e-learning portfolio.

- **Practical Training** - Gain hands-on experience in a dental practice, supported by the practice team
- **Theoretical Training** - Complete the theory element of the programme online with guidance from Skills4Dental
- **Off-the-Job Learning** - Participate in 4 hour bi-weekly dedicated training sessions during paid working hours to enhance your knowledge and skills
- **Duration** - The knowledge delivery of this Dental Nurse Apprenticeship typically takes 15 months. The final 60-minute clinical observation, along with the passing of two knowledge tests and portfolio of evidence will be sent to the awarding organisation to complete the Apprenticeship Assessment process
- **Knowledge Test** - Learners to achieve two 45-minute online multiple-choice assessments to check their knowledge whilst on programme
- **Clinical observations** - confirming competency in the workplace undertaken by experienced assessors, reducing Clinician time away from chairside duties

What are the Entry Requirements?

To enrol onto this course, English and Maths requirements differ depending on the learner's age:

For learners aged 16–18: It is mandatory to either already hold, or be able to work towards and achieve, the required English and Maths qualifications as part of the apprenticeship. These must be completed prior to Gateway to Completion.

For learners aged 19 and over: It is recommended that applicants hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above (or an equivalent qualification). If evidence of prior achievement is not available at enrolment, learners may choose to complete these subjects separately through Skills4, with full funding and support provided.

While English and Maths are optional for adult learners to enrol onto this apprenticeship, completing them is strongly advised – particularly for those intending to progress to a higher-level qualification in the future.

Off-the-job Training

What is off-the-job training?

Off-the-job training is a vital and mandatory part of every apprenticeship programme. It refers to any learning undertaken by the apprentice during their paid working hours that is outside of their usual day-to-day duties, but directly related to the development of the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required by their apprenticeship standard.

It's important to note that off-the-job training must take place during the apprentice's normal working hours, this means the hours they are paid for, excluding any overtime. Recently, the Department for Education (DfE) introduced changes to how off-the-job training is measured and delivered. Rather than applying a single standard approach across all apprenticeships, the requirement is now tailored to each apprenticeship programme.

This means that the minimum number of off-the-job training hours an apprentice must complete will differ depending on the specific apprenticeship they are enrolled on.

These hours are not optional. Apprentices must meet the minimum off-the-job training requirement in order to progress to the Gateway to Completion stage, the point at which they are assessed for successful completion of their apprenticeship.

If this requirement is not met, they cannot move forward, which may cause delays and affect both the apprentice's progress and their apprenticeship duration.

Employers play a key role in supporting this part of the apprenticeship. This includes allowing your apprentice time within their normal working hours to complete their off-the-job learning, working closely with the training provider to plan and structure training time effectively, and creating a supportive environment.

If you are unsure about the required off-the-job hours for a particular apprenticeship or need support in structuring this into your apprentice's schedule, our team is here to help guide you through the process.

Why during working hours?

If the required off-the-job training must, by exception, take place outside of the apprentice's normal working hours (e.g. in an evening or at the weekend, for an apprentice that normally works Mon-Fri 9-5), the apprentice must agree to this and be compensated for this time (e.g. through time off in lieu (TOIL) or by being paid for these hours). The majority of the programme must not be delivered in this way.

More information on off-the-job training can be found on the www.gov.uk website

Theory:

- ✓ Classes & workshops
- ✓ Online Webinars
- ✓ Masterclasses
- ✓ Reading & Research
- ✓ Lunch & Learn Sessions
- ✓ Roleplay & Simulation Exercises.

Practical Training:

- ✓ Job Shadowing Mentoring
- ✓ Attending Meetings
- ✓ Networking & Events
- ✓ Visits to wider parts of department
- ✓ Project Work.

Learning Support:

- ✓ Writing Assignments
- ✓ Writing Self Assessments
- ✓ Revision
- ✓ Exam Prep
- ✓ One-to-one Tutorials
- ✓ Peer Discussions.

Career Opportunities

Upon completion, Dental Nurses have a range of career opportunities, including:

- **Specialisation** - Orthodontic Nursing, Dental Radiography, Oral Health Promotion, or Sedation Nursing
- **Advancement** - Progress to roles such as Lead Dental Nurse, Practice Manager, or Dental Therapist (with further qualifications).
- **Broader Healthcare Roles:** Transition into maxillofacial units, hospital dentistry, or research roles.



Get Started Today!

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