

Course Specification Student Version

Course Title:	Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Practice
Course Code:	GDC 312
Department:	Dentistry
Program:	Bachelor of Dentistry
College:	Vision College in Riyadh
Institution:	Vision College in Riyadh
Revised:	July 2025

A. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 1 (1+0+0)
2. Level/year at which this course is offered: Level 5/Year 3
3. Pre-requisites for this course (if any): None
4. Co-requisites for this course (if any): None

B. Teaching Methods

1	Lecture
2	Assignment
3	Case-based learning

C. Course Description and Objectives

1. Course Description

- This is a theory-based one credit hour course, which will be offered for third year dental students. The course introduces ethics and professionalism in dentistry.
- The principles of ethics and their relationship to clinical care will be taught. What will be given in this course will be applied to moral problems in dentistry and dental research

2. Course Main Objective

Main objective of this course is to provide dental students with the knowledge and skills that would enable them to deal with cases that could involve ethical dilemma.

By the end of this course, the students should be able to:

- Explain Principles of Ethics and the Code of Professional Conduct for dentist.
- Identify different approach to identify, analyze, and resolve ethical issues encountered in clinical practice.
- Understand modern research ethics and describe the ethics of research publication
- Differentiate between Western and Islamic approaches to bioethics
- Know the important ethical issues related to medical errors

3. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Define ethics and its principles.
- Describe different types of relations between the Dentist and Patients.
- Apply Ethical Principles in different scenarios.
- Demonstrate ethics and professionalism in dental practice.

D. Course Content

No	List of Topics
1	Introduction
2	Principles of Western & Islamic approaches to bioethics
3	Principal features of dental ethics
4	Ethical theories
5	Codes of ethics in dentistry
6	Healthcare Practitioner's Duties Towards Him/Herself
7	Dentist/patient relationship (responsibilities to patients)
8	Dentist/ colleague or profession relationship (responsibilities to colleagues and profession)
9	Medical malpractice and medical errors
10	Ethics of conducting biomedical research
11	Ethical dilemmas and decision making in dentistry (including ethical dilemma resolution framework)
12	Ethics of financial affairs in healthcare field
13	Ethics of dealing with communicable diseases and emergency cases

E. Assessment Tools

#	Assessment task	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Assignment Evaluation	10%
2	Written Exam (Quizzes)	20%
3	Written Exam - Midterm	30%
4	Written Exam - Final	40%
	Total	100%

F. Learning Resources

Essential References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, 2005. A. Trathen and J. E. Gallagher, 2009. Dental professionalism: definitions and debate. Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs, American Dental Association (ADA), 2018. Principles of Ethics and professional conduct.
Supportive References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual of Ethics in Dentistry, Al-Farabi College, 2012-2013. Professionalism and ethics, handbook for residents. Saudi commission for health specialties, 2015. FDI World dental federation, dental ethics manual, 2007

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joseph J.: Preventive and Community Dentistry.2 Edition 2006.• Christensen, Gordon J. The perception of professionalism in dentistry: further reflections on a lively topic. JADA, 133, 2002
Electronic Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.slideshare.com
Other Learning Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Dental Association. Principles of ethics and code of professional conduct, 2003. Available at: "http://www.csda.com/ada_code.pdf."• American Student Dental Association. White Paper on Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Education. Chicago: 2009. Available at: "http://asdanet.org/uploadedFiles/The_Issues/ASDA%20White%20Paper%20Final-Newcomb.pdf".• ADEA Statement on Professionalism in Dental Education.2009, Available at: "www.csda.com/ada_code.pdf."