

Program Outline

VERSION: December 2025

Program Outline

The Bridge Training to Dental Practice in Canada program (BTDP) is designed to validate the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired by an internationally trained dentists (ITDs) through an unaccredited program and, where deficiencies are apparent, provide supplemental training, experience, evaluation and feedback to build competence within the scope and standard defined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada's (CDRAF) [*Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities \(KSAs\) for a Beginning Dental Practitioner in Canada*](#).

The BTDP consists of a number of core modules, preparing candidates for the context of professional practice in Canada; a subset of custom modules as defined by each candidate's achievement within pre-entry placement testing and a final clinical experience module designed to support clinical evaluation and skill-building in a patient care environment.

#	Module	Type	Length
1	Patient Assessment By the end of this module, students will demonstrate knowledge of the patient assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning process as related to dental practice in Canada. Topics will cover the full process of patient assessment, from medical and dental history taking to formulating a comprehensive treatment plan. Material learned in didactic lectures will be applied in a case-based format using documentation from actual patient cases and requiring students to analyze data, interpret results to determine diagnosis, outline treatment options and prepare an appropriately phased and sequenced treatment plan. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program and is a prerequisite to mentored or direct-care patient experiences.	Core	11 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
2	Patient Management By the end of this module, students will be able to: ▶ Implement appropriate measures to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases ▶ Prescribe and administer pharmacotherapeutic agents used in dentistry (including local anaesthetics, antibiotics and analgesics) ▶ Will understand the current standards for the safe handling of hazardous materials in dental practice ▶ Strategies to prevent and manage medical emergencies most likely to occur in dental practice ▶ Imperatives and approaches for managing medically-compromised patients Material learned in didactic lectures will either be evaluated through a comprehensive examination or applied in simulation or peer-to-peer clinics. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP, and it is a prerequisite to clinical experiences.	Core	84 hrs
3	Professionalism & Communications By the end of this module, students will recognize the ethical and legal obligations required within the profession: ▶ Confidentiality requirements ▶ Task delegation ▶ Commitment to continued professional development ▶ Patient-centered care In the professional domain, the candidates will be: ▶ Aware of the professional requirements to maintain accurate and complete patient records	Core	50 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
	▶ Manage occupational hazards related to the practice of dentistry ▶ Take appropriate action where signs of abuse (physical, psychological, and substance abuse) and/or neglect are identified ▶ Apply principles of practice administration, financial and personnel management In the communication domain, the candidates will be able to: ▶ Communicate effectively using a patient-centred approach, with patients, parents, guardians, staff, peers, other health professionals, social-service professionals and the public ▶ Ensure that all communications with patients, including advertising and social media use, are honest, accurate and comply with legal and professional obligations Material learned in readings, didactic lectures and seminars will be evaluated through seminar participation, assignments and quizzes. A final OSCE evaluation, conducted with a standardized patient, will require students to acquire a patient history using a patient-centred approach. This is a core (required) module in the BTDPCC with professionalism unit prerequisite to clinical experiences, and the communications unit runs parallel with initial clinical experiences.		
4	Radiology By the end of the module, students will be able to	Core	25 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
	demonstrate an understanding of: ▶ Theoretical and practical knowledge regarding radiation safety ▶ How to prescribe, take and interpret radiographs in a simulation environment before working on patients ▶ Demonstrate knowledge of radiographic techniques and quality assurance, take intraoral images, including periapical radiographs (using the paralleling or bisecting-the-angle techniques), bitewing radiographs and occlusal radiographs ▶ Set up for panoramic images and identify positioning errors ▶ Comprehend prescribing and acquiring radiographs in patient care ▶ Understand advanced imaging applications (cone-beam computed tomography) ▶ Interpret radiographic images made in the practice of dentistry and generate basic radiology reports for radiographic images (new patient exam, FMS patients and extraoral images – pan) taken Material learned in readings and lectures supplements laboratory and workshop experiences. Students will complete laboratories to acquire radiographs and set up for panoramic images. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program.		
5	Health Promotion By the end of this module, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of: ▶ Social determinants of health ▶ Promote measures to prevent oral disease/injury	Core	19 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
	▶ Understand the challenges that limit access to care within Canada's <i>Dental Health System and Health Policy Framework</i> ▶ Be able to describe their role as an advocate for patients and communities Material learned in readings, lectures and seminars is evaluated through seminar participation and quizzes. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program.		
6	Oral Surgery By the end of this module, students will be able to: ▶ Outline the standards and practices for patient assessment, pre-operative planning, treatment and post-operative follow-up for patients undergoing oral surgery ▶ Outline the indications for surgical treatment and administer the process for referral to a specialist ▶ Evaluate patient cases, determining the complexity of the surgical intervention required ▶ Outline the treatment requirements, possible complications and post-surgical pharmacotherapy ▶ Outline the follow-up requirements for simple and complex extractions that fall within the scope of practice for a beginning general practitioner Material learned in readings and lectures is evaluated through examination. Students will participate in four clinical observations where they will be evaluated orally on relevant patient case factors. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program.	Core	22 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
7	Periodontics By the end of this module, students will be able to: ▶ Apply a process to determine the diagnosis and management of a patient with periodontitis ▶ Develop the skills necessary for the diagnosis and treatment planning of periodontitis and acute periodontal abscesses ▶ Develop skills for the nonsurgical management of patients with early to moderate attachment loss Learning is acquired through readings, lectures, workshops and clinical observation and evaluated through examination, assignments and orally on relevant patient case factors as a component of their clinical observations. This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program. This module is a prerequisite to clinical experiences (assisting, mentored, direct care) where a patient assessment is conducted or periodontal therapy is provided.	Core	36 hrs
8	Caries Assessment and Operative By the end of this module, students will demonstrate: ▶ The ability to use a standard process for the assessment and classification of caries disease ▶ Demonstrate preclinical proficiency in operative dentistry skills that augment the initial testing standard This is a core (required) module in the BTDP program. This module is a prerequisite to direct patient care experiences where restorative treatment is provided.	Core	25 hrs
Any of the modules below <u>may be</u> required based on achievement within pre-entry placement testing.			

9	Endodontics By the end of this module, the student will be able to demonstrate: ▶ The ability to evaluate pulp vitality and sensibility for the diagnosis of pulpal and periapical conditions ▶ Assess endodontic case difficulty using established standards ▶ Formulate treatment plans based on an integrated analysis of case factors ▶ Demonstrate an understanding of the factors that influence treatment decisions, including patient factors, restorability, periodontal status and pulp status ▶ Demonstrate an understanding of root canal anatomy in planning for access cavity preparation ▶ Demonstrate root canal treatment procedures and techniques in simulation through the completion of a root canal on an anterior single-rooted and bicuspid as well as an access preparation on a molar. ▶ Outline common iatrogenic complications that may occur during different stages of RCT ▶ Identify strategies to address common endodontic emergencies that may include pain control; management of infection ▶ Describe the immediate and definitive treatment strategies for dental trauma Learning is acquired through lectures, workshops and simulation of endodontic procedures with constructive feedback. This module will be required for students who did not meet the minimum requirement in endodontics in the pre-entry assessment. This module is a prerequisite to direct patient care experiences where restorative treatment is provided.	Indiv Req	67 hrs
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#	Module	Type	Length
10	Pediatric Dentistry This module provides theoretical and practical simulation knowledge essential for delivering comprehensive oral healthcare to children and adolescents, focusing on prevention, caries risk assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, pediatric restorative treatment and space management. Key areas include caries risk assessment, application of fluoride, basic restorations in primary dentition practiced in a simulation environment, knowledge of pulp therapy, understanding the mixed dentition phase, including early detection of supernumerary teeth, ectopic eruption, ankylosis and space management. Successful completion ensures students can diagnose and formulate comprehensive treatment plans. This module will be required for students who did not meet the minimum requirement in pediatric dentistry in the pre-entry assessment. This module is a prerequisite to direct patient care experiences, providing care to the child or adolescent patient.	Indiv Req	35 hrs
11	Fixed Prosthodontics By the end of this module, the student will be able to demonstrate: ▸ Knowledge of anatomical and numerical nomenclature of the dentition (FDI system of classification) ▸ Neuromuscular motor skills to perform dental procedures, tooth preparation techniques to create biomechanically sound tooth preparations that establish anatomical form, function and esthetics based on the restorative material chosen	Indiv Req	65 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
	▶ Evaluation and restoration techniques for endodontic treated teeth ▶ The ability to select an appropriate restorative materials to establish the anatomical form, function, biological compatibility and esthetics to satisfy patient's requirements ▶ Knowledge and ability to select and use materials to perform restorative treatment, such as appropriate selection of impression materials, luting/cementing materials, bonding materials, foundation materials for fixed prosthodontics ▶ Knowledge and ability to use a range of instruments and materials to perform optimal treatment based on accepted techniques and principles, sound restorative material manipulation techniques. ▶ Ability to deliver the provisional and definitive restoration(s) and within case-based scenarios ▶ Candidates will be able to diagnose a patient's indirect restoration needs and develop an appropriate plan for treatment and prognosis Learning is acquired through lectures, seminars and simulation of fixed prosthodontic procedures with constructive feedback. This module may be required for students who did not meet the minimum requirement in fixed prosthodontics in the pre-entry assessment. This module is a prerequisite to direct patient care experiences where restorative treatment is provided.		
12	Removable Prosthodontics This module consists of a series of lectures, seminars, videos, demonstrations, laboratory and clinical experiences	Indiv Req	100 hrs

#	Module	Type	Length
	dealing with fundamental principles and techniques of treating partially and completely edentulous patients. ▸ Indications for the determination of partial or complete denture design ▸ Principles of design ▸ Methods for the determination of design and specifying fabrication requirements ▸ Skilled practice areas include survey & design and tooth preparation for partial dentures This module may be required for students who did not meet the minimum requirement in removable prosthodontics in the pre-entry assessment. This module is a prerequisite to direct patient care experiences where prosthodontic treatment is provided.		
Clinical experiences proceed within a three-phased module.			
12	Clinical Experiences The clinical experience module extends through 2.5 months of term one and all of term two. It is delivered within a clinical environment and encompasses experiences that develop a student's clinical competence across all disciplinary areas of dentistry. Each area of competence is experienced through three phases: 1. An initial early entrustment phase for the determination of the student's readiness for direct patient care 2. A skill-building and evaluation phase where direct patient care is provided, supervised by an instructor	Core	530 hrs Approx.

#	Module	Type	Length
	3. Where context and complexity of patient care progresses within a supervised environment Students will participate in approximately three clinics/week in term one and up to eight clinics/week in term two. This is a core (required) module in the BTDPC program. Successful completion is a determination of clinical competence in alignment with the <i>KSAs for a Beginning Dentist in Canada</i>. A portfolio of clinical experiences is maintained by students, including evaluative data representing the following areas of competence: ▶ Patient assessment ▶ Provision of care ▶ Maintain professional standards Students will experience approximately 570 hours of patient care experiences, with a majority of experiences provided within the Oral Health Care Clinic, Mike Petryk School of Dentistry. Additionally, students will have opportunities to observe and/or provide care in the following sites: ▶ Radius Health Centre, 10628 96 Street, Edmonton, AB ▶ Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton, AB ▶ Emergency Dental Clinic at the University of Alberta Hospital (Walter MacKenzie Centre, Unit 2C1)		

*Final module outlines will be available on the first day of module delivery. Small changes in responsible instructors, delivery locations and time allocations may vary until this time.



**Bridge Training to Dental Practice in Canada
Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry**

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