

Qualification Factsheet

Qualification overview

Qualification title	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing		
Qualification number (QN)	610/3114/8		
Total qualification time (TQT):	550	Guided learning hours (GLH)	365
UCAS	Please refer to the UCAS website for further details of points allocation and the most up-to-date information.		
Entry requirements:	<p>Entry is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners should be aged 16 or above to undertake this qualification.</p> <p>There are additional requirements set by the General Dental Council (GDC) for this qualification at approval stage and for external quality assurance reviews. Established centres may wish to use their own pre-existing templates. Our approval process can take as little as 2 working days. Please see the following documents for more information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification Approval and External Quality Assurance Reviews • Appendices, Polices and Statements 		

About this qualification

This qualification is designed for those who want to register with the GDC and qualify as a dental nurse. It can be taken as either stand-alone or as part of an apprenticeship. It is a mandatory element within the Dental Nurse (GDC 2023) occupational standard and the end-point assessment (EPA) is integrated into this qualification.

To meet the GDC's outcomes, the qualification reflects the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours a dental nurse must have to practise safely, effectively and professionally. The qualification fully meets [The Safe Practitioner: Dental Nurse](#) (superseding the GDC's Preparing for practice outcomes). and also meets the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) within the Dental Nurse (GDC 2023) occupational standard. Units include underpinning ethics, professionalism, teamwork and communication, as well as practical dental principles and techniques.

This qualification is currently provisionally approved (awaiting full approval) by the GDC and, upon completion, it will enable learners to apply for registration with the GDC.

This qualification can be taken as part of an apprenticeship and is the mandatory element within the Dental Nurse (GDC 2023) occupational standard for Dental Nurses (England) (ST1431 v1.0). This apprenticeship has a statutory, integrated EPA.

This qualification comes with a comprehensive set of internal assessment tasks and associated marking guidance covering 100% of the knowledge outcomes within the qualification. These are provided free of charge to registered centres.

Qualification structure

Learners/apprentices must achieve 55 credits from the 12 mandatory units and a pass, merit or distinction in each of the two external, synoptic, multiple-choice question (MCQ) tests covering the underpinning knowledge across units.

There is no compensation between units, tests or observations in practice.

Please see the Qualification Specification for the full rules of combination and grading breakdown.

Mandatory units

CORE DN 1 Work within regulatory requirements in relation to the role of a dental nurse (M/650/8103)
CORE DN 2 Contribute to health and safety in the dental environment (R/650/8104)
CORE DN 3 Reflect on and develop own practice as a dental nurse (T/650/8105)
CORE DN 4 Promote oral health for individuals (Y/650/8106)
CORE DN 5 Provide support during the assessment of individuals' oral health (A/650/8107)
CORE DN 6 Contribute to the production of dental images (D/650/8108)
CORE DN 7 Provide support during the prevention and control of periodontal disease, caries and the restoration of cavities (F/650/8109)
CORE DN 8 Provide support during the provision of fixed and removable prostheses (K/650/8110)
CORE DN 9 Provide support during non-surgical endodontic treatment (L/650/8111)
CORE DN 10 Provide support during the extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery procedures (M/650/8112)
CORE DN 11 Dental anatomy and assessment of oral health (R/650/8113)
CORE DN 12 First aid essentials (T/650/8114)

Assessment

This qualification is internally and externally assessed, and externally quality assured by NCFE. The assessment consists of two components:

- an internally assessed portfolio of evidence for all units, which is assessed by the centre and externally quality assured by NCFE (internal quality assurance must still be completed by the centre as usual)
- two externally set and externally marked, synoptic, MCQ tests covering the underpinning knowledge across units – the assessments will be online and on demand

For apprentices, on achievement of this qualification and the completion of a successful Gateway audit, they may begin the EPA period.

The EPA takes place after the apprentice has completed all the requirements on-programme, for the Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing and their workplace agrees they are competent. The independent external quality assurers (IEQAs) will review claimed qualification certificates to ensure that apprentices have met all the requirements of the Dental Nurse apprenticeship. Please see the [EPA support page](#) on the NCFE website for more information.

Placement requirements

This qualification requires learners to complete a mandatory work/industry placement experience throughout the duration of the qualification, before certification. It is recommended that a minimum of 16 hours per week is spent in the workplace.

If this qualification is being taken as part of an apprenticeship, apprentices will need to be working with a full-time employment contract in place and enrolled on the Dental Nurse apprenticeship to be able to show competence in the relevant KSBs and complete this qualification.

Apprentices should be employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week, completing the minimum required off-the-job training in line with Department for Education (DfE) funding rules.

Progression opportunities

Learners may progress into employment as a dental nurse or to other career pathways including:

- orthodontic therapist
- dental practice manager
- oral health practitioner
- dental technician
- dental hygienist
- dental therapist



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