**Course Name:** Professional Practice 1

**Department Head/Coordinator:** Department Head: Lisa M Supeene  
**Effective Date:** September 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School or Centre:</th>
<th>Course History:</th>
<th>Year of Study:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
<td>Professional Practice 1 DENT 7620</td>
<td>2nd Year Post-secondary</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Replacing Course (if applicable):</th>
<th>Course Number:</th>
<th>Number of Credits:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Practice 1 DENT 7620</td>
<td>DHYG 2134</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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**Course Pre-requisites (if applicable):**

Acceptance into the program.

**Course Co-requisites (if applicable):**

Term 1 courses in Dental Hygiene Program

**PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition):**  
☑️ No ☐ Yes (details below):

**Course Description:**

This course will assist learners in gaining foundation knowledge, attitudes, values and abilities pertaining to professionalism, communication, and evidence-based decision making, while recognizing the social determinants of health relevant to dental hygiene practice.
**Instructional Strategies:**

Instructional strategies include lecture to introduce learners to concepts and principles of professional practice, integrated group discussion and activities as well as case based learning.

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:
1. Explain essential theoretical concepts as they relate to self-regulating dental hygiene practice.
2. Discuss the roles and areas of responsibility for dental hygienists in Canada.
3. Explain theories, principles and strategies associated with professional communication skills.
4. Communicate clearly and accurately in written, oral, electronic and visual forms.
5. Defend a position regarding ethical dilemma scenarios associated with health care.
7. Apply systematic inquiry, critical thinking skills, and decision making relative to important topics in professionalism and communication.

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**Program Learning Outcomes:**

A graduate has met the goals of the VCC Dental Hygiene Diploma program based on the Entry-to-Practice Standards and Competencies for Canadian Dental Hygienists (1) by reliably demonstrating knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the following domains:

1. **Professional:** Use elements of the arts and science of dental hygiene in the service of the public such as the application of codes of ethics and professional conduct, the development of safe practice environments, and the responsibility/accountability for decisions and actions appropriate for a self-regulating profession.
2. **Communicator/Collaborator:** Use effective verbal, non-verbal, visual, written, and electronic communication methods in the exchange of ideas, opinions and information relevant to dental hygiene practice. As well as influence and work with others to improve the health and well-being of the public.
3. **Critical Thinker:** Invoke systematic inquiry, reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making strategies in the provision of all dental hygiene services.
4. **Advocate:** Speak, write, or act in support of causes, policies, individuals, or groups that aid to reduce inequities in health status or improve access to health services.
5. **Coordinator:** Support client needs and outcomes through the coordination and management of services, actions and resources.
6. **Clinical Therapist:** Provide primary, interceptive, therapeutic, preventive, and supportive care procedures that enable individuals and groups to achieve optimal oral health that contributes to overall health.
7. **Oral health educator:** Apply teaching and learning principles to facilitate the development and expansion of skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviour which support oral health and general health.
8. **Health promoter:** Use health promotion principles and strategies to enable individuals and groups to increase their control over and to improve their health.

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### Evaluation/Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading System</th>
<th>Specify if ‘Other’</th>
<th>Specify Passing Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grades</td>
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<td>C</td>
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### Components and Weighting of the Assessment/Evaluation Plan:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Evaluation Plan</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Self-reflection essay and self-assessment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Argumentative essay: response to a question</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Analysis of ethical dilemma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Professional communication scenario role-rehearsal</td>
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| Total        | 100        |                  |         |

### Learning Environment/Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction Type</th>
<th>Hours Per Instruction Type</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L - Classroom</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B - Lab (Computer, Chemistry...)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E - Seminar</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

Enter Total Hours 100

### Resource Material(s):

Resources are items in addition to tuition that the student is responsible for purchasing. Course resource information will be supplied by the department/instructor.
### Course Topics and Sequence Covered:

1. History of dental hygiene profession and self-regulating practice in Canada
2. Self and peer assessment
3. Learning styles
4. Professional written, oral, electronic and visual communication
5. Systematic inquiry skills and evaluation of the literature
6. Models of health care and client relationships
7. Health, oral health care policy and access to care
8. Social determinants of health and vulnerable populations
9. Values and ethical/ moral reasoning

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**VCC Education and Education Support Policies**

There are a number of **Education** and **Education Support** policies that govern your educational experience at VCC, please familiarize yourself with them.

The policies are located on the VCC web site at:  
[http://www.vcc.ca/about-vcc/policies/index.cfm](http://www.vcc.ca/about-vcc/policies/index.cfm)

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To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at [www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca).

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**FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Approved by Education Council:</th>
<th>Date Approved by VCC Board (if applicable):</th>
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