



Sveučilište u Rijeci
University of Rijeka



Sveučilište u Rijeci • Fakultet dentalne medicine
University of Rijeka • Faculty of Dental Medicine
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Course: Dental Professions

Course Coordinator: Professor Stjepan Spalj, MSc, PhD

Course Collaborators:

Department: Department of Orthodontics

Study program: Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate University Study of Dental Medicine (in English)

Study year: 1st

Academic year 2026/27

SYLLABUS

Course description (a brief description of the course, general instructions, where and in what form the lessons are organized, necessary equipment, instructions for attendance and preparation for classes, student obligations, etc.):

The course Professions in Dental Medicine is a compulsory course and consists of 8 hours of lectures and 7 hours of seminars, totaling 15 hours (1 ECTS). The course is delivered in hybrid form – on site and on line by using the Merlin and Teams platform.

The aim of the course is for the student of dentistry at the beginning of the study to become familiar with the scope of his future profession, collaborative professions, organization and scope of work and position of their profession in the health system and society.

The content of the course is as follows:

Definitions of dental medicine and its position within medicine; Dental medicine, dental team, scope of work of doctors, assistants, hygienists and technicians; St. Apollonia as the protector of the dental profession; Organizational levels of dental activity and financing system; Principles of training professionals in dental medicine; Organization of studies in dental medicine, dental hygiene and dental technology; Specializations in dental medicine, professional development; Professional associations and societies; Organization of work in the practice; Occupational and iatrogenic diseases; Ergonomics.

Teaching:

Teaching is held in the form of lectures and seminars. In the seminar, the lecturer assesses the students' readiness to present the topic and moderates the discussion. There is a final examination at the end. By completing all teaching activities 1 ECTS point is acquired.

Assigned reading:

Vodanović M, Alt KW (ed). Essentials of dental medicine. Zagreb: Naklada Slap; 2022.

Optional/additional reading:

- Burt BA, Eklund SA. Dentistry, dental practice, and the community. 7th ed. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 2020.
- Gluck G, Morganstein W. Jong's Community Dental Health. 5th ed. Maryland Heights: Mosby; 2002.
- Manual of dental practice. Council of dental practitioners; 2015.

COURSE TEACHING PLAN:

The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions):

P1. Scope of dental professions

Learning outcomes:

Analyze the activity and scope of dentistry, target organs and tissues and basic oral diseases.

P2. Organization and levels of dental care

Learning outcomes:

Discuss the organization and levels of dental care.

P3. Dental auxiliaries

Learning outcomes:

Categorize the collaborative staff.

P4. Education in dentistry

Learning outcomes:

Classify the courses in university dental education, identify specialist disciplines of dentistry and types of lifelong learning.

P5. Health insurance

Learning outcomes:

Interpret health care financing and types of insurance.

P6. Organization of work in dental practice

Learning outcomes:

Distinguish the content of the practice and principles of working in the practice.

P7. Running a dental practice

Learning outcomes:

Discuss the ways of running a dental practice.

P8. Ergonomics, occupational and iatrogenic diseases

Learning outcomes:

Analyze ergonomic principles in dentistry, discuss causation factors of iatrogenic and occupational diseases and methods of prevention.

The list of seminars with descriptions:**S1-7. Social aspects of the dental profession**

Students independently prepare and publicly present a seminar on a given topic. In doing so, they deal with the social aspects of their future profession (communication and health literacy, dental tourism and culturally sensitive oral health care, career in dentistry, artificial intelligence and future of dentistry, stress in dentistry, dental anxiety, family dentistry and geriatric dentistry, dental sleep medicine, dental bioarchaeology, comparative odontology and veterinary dentistry)

The list of practicals with descriptions:**Students' obligations:**

Students are required to attend regularly and participate actively in all forms of education. Seminar and final exam are required.

Exam

ECTS credit grading system:

Student assessment is carried out according to the current Regulations on Studies of the University of Rijeka.

Student work will be evaluated and graded during classes and at the final exam. Out of a total of 100 grade points, a student can achieve 50 points during classes and another 50 points on the exam.

Student assessment is performed using ECTS (A-F) and number system (5-1). Grading in the ECTS system is performed by absolute distribution.

Students who gain from 0 to 24.9% of grades that could be obtained during classes through forms of continuous monitoring and evaluation of students are graded F (unsuccessful), can not gain ECTS credits and must re-enroll the course.

The student gains grades by actively participating in classes and performing the set tasks.

During the classes, the seminar paper is evaluated (maximum up to 50 points):

The grade of the presented seminar paper carries 30 grade points (passing grades in the range of 15-30), and is converted into grade points as follows:

score	points
2	25
2-3	29
3	33
3-4	37
4	42
4-5	46
5	50

Final exam (total 50 points)

Who can take the final exam:

Students who achieved 25% and more grade points during classes through forms of continuous monitoring and evaluation of students.

Who cannot take the final exam:

Students who achieved from 0 to 24,9% of grades during classes are graded F (unsuccessful), can not gain ECTS credits and must re-enroll the course.

The final exam is written (it can be in a form of multiple answers questions or answers in free form), carries 50 grade points (passing grades ranging from 25-50). The the case of multiple answers questions resolution ratio is multiplied by a weight of 0.5. The limiter is 50%. When having test in free form grade is convertes in scalar poins in this manner:

grade	scalar points
2	25
2-3	29
3	33
3-4	37
4	42
4-5	46
5	50

To pass the final exam and for the final grade (including the addition of previously achieved grade points during classes), the student must have a positive grade in the final exam and achieve a minimum of 25 grade points (50%).

Assessment in the ECTS system is performed by absolute distribution, that is on the basis of the final achievement:

A– 90-100% points

B – 75-89,9 %

C – 60-74,9 %

D -- 50-59,9%

F – 0-49,9%

Grades in the ECTS system are transformed into a numerical system as follows:

A = excellent (5)

B = very good (4)

C = good (3)

D = sufficient (2)

F = unsufficient (1)

Other important information regarding to the course:

Any use of another's text or other form of author's work, as well as the use of ChatGPT or any of another tool whose functionality is based on artificial intelligence technology, without clear and unambiguous citation of sources, is considered a violation of someone else's copyright and the principle of academic integrity and represents serious violation of student obligations, which entails disciplinary responsibility and disciplinary measures accordingly Rulebook on disciplinary responsibility of students.

The seminar paper can be presented a maximum of two times; after that, it must be presented before a committee. If, after the third presentation, the presentation is still not satisfactory, the student loses the right to take the exam for that academic year.

Teaching content and all information related to the course as well as exam dates can be found on the e-course on the Merlin platform.

Cosultation time:

Professor Špalj: Friday 9-10 a.m.

COURSE SCHEDULE (for academic year 2026/27)

Date	Lectures (time and place)	Seminars (time and place)	Practicals (time and place)	Instructor
8.12.2026.	Scope of dental professions P1 (9:30-10:15) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
8.12.2026.	Organization and levels of dental care P2 (10:15- 11:00) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
8.12.2026.	Dental auxiliaries P3 (11:00-11:45) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
8.12.2026.	Education in dentistry P4 (11:45-12:30) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
8.12.2026.	Health insurance P5 Online asynchronous			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
9.12.2026.	Organization of work in dental practice P6 (8:00-8:45) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
9.12.2026.	Running a dental practice P7 (8:45-9:30) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
9.12.2026.	Ergonomics, occupational and iatrogenic diseases P8 (9:30-10:15) Krešimirova 42			Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD

9.12.2026.		S1 (10:15-11:00) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
9.12.2026.		S2 (11:00-11:45) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
9.12.2026.		S3 (11:45-12:30) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
11.12.2026.		S4 (8:00-8:45) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
11.12.2026.		S5 (8:45- 9:30) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
11.12.2026.		S6 (9:30-10:15) Krešimirova 42		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD
11.12.2026.		S7 online		Professor Stjepan Spalj, PhD

List of lectures and seminars:

	LECTURES (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
L1	Scope of dental professions	1	Kresimirova 42
L2	Organization and levels of dental care	1	Kresimirova 42
L3	Dental auxiliaries	1	Kresimirova 42
L4	Education in dentistry	1	Kresimirova 42
L5	Health insurance	1	Kresimirova 42
L6	Organization of work in dental practice	1	Kresimirova 42
L7	Running a dental practice	1	Kresimirova 42
L8	Ergonomics, occupational and iatrogenic diseases	1	Kresimirova 42
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	8	

	SEMINARS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
S1-7	Social aspects of the dental profession	7	Kresimirova 42
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	7	

	FINAL EXAM DATES
1.	18.12.2026.
2.	22.1.2027.
3.	19.2.2027.
4.	19.3.2027.
5.	

	Lectures	Seminars	Practicals	Total
Total number	8	7		15
On-line	1	1		2
Percentage	13%	14%		13%