



MEDICINAL UNIVERSITY

“PROF. DR. PARASKEV STOYANOV” VARNA

FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Approved by Faculty Council Protocol No. 8/12.2025.2026

Approved by:

DEAN

/Assoc. Prof. G. Papanchev, M.D./



CURRICULUM

in

“PUBLIC DENTAL HEALTH— PRACTICE MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, LEGISLATION, BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, SOCIAL ASPECTS, INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIVE CARE”

Specialty: “DENTAL MEDICINE”

Educational and qualification degree “MASTER”

Professional qualification – D.M.D.

	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Horarium – hours per week</i>	<i>Horarium – hours in total</i>
<i>Lectures</i>	V	15 weeks x 3	45
	VI	2	30
<i>Seminars</i>	V	2	30
	VI	2	30
<i>Total hours</i>	V; VI		135
<i>Extracurricular employment</i>	V; VI		135
<i>Forms of Evaluation</i>	Ongoing assessment		Exam VI Semester
<i>Credits (ECTS)</i>	V, VI	6/3	9

Varna, 2026

Course Description

The course "**Public Dental Health—Practice Management, Professionalism, Legislation, Behavioral Sciences, Social Aspects, Interprofessional Collaborative Care**" is part of the required curriculum for students majoring in Dental Medicine and aims to familiarize them with the fundamental concepts and principles of public health and their application in addressing issues in the field of oral health.

The curriculum includes topics on the assessment, prevention, and control of oral diseases in the population, oral health promotion, the organization and management of dental healthcare, and principles of e-health

It examines in detail issues fundamental to public health and specific to dental healthcare, such as:

- contemporary definitions of oral health and the influence of social factors and behavior on the individual and the community;
- international and national health policies and health legislation in the field of dentistry;
- epidemiological approaches and specific indicators for measuring the prevalence and severity of oral diseases;
- epidemiological designs for identifying risk factors for dental health;
- designs for evaluating the effectiveness of new preventive and therapeutic methods and materials;
- promotion of oral health and prevention of oral diseases
- healthcare organization, management, and financing;
- digital healthcare;
- management and marketing of dental practices;
- organization of the diagnostic and treatment process;
- ergonomics in dental practice;
- occupational risks and pathology in dental practice;
- assessment of health needs and dental service needs;
- interprofessional collaborative care

Forms of instruction, assessment, and evaluation:

Instruction is delivered through lectures and seminar exercises.

I. Ongoing assessment:

- Preparation and defense of a project, solving case studies and situational problems, results from ongoing tests, and critical analysis of scientific articles—at least 10.

II. Exam:

- written essay on two theoretical questions from the lecture notes
- oral exam on two theoretical questions from the lecture notes
- written test consisting of 40 open-ended and multiple-choice questions

	Content	Calculation	Weighting factor	Result
Ongoing assessment	project preparation and defense, case study and situational problem-solving, results from ongoing tests, and critical analysis of a scientific article	Arithmetic mean grade of no less than 10 assignments	0.4	A
Exam	Written/oral/	Arithmetic mean of the two questions	0.6	B

	Test	Total points – 100. Poor (2) – 0–60 points, Average (3) – 61–70 points, Good (4) – 71–80 points, Very Good (5) – 81–90 points, Excellent (6) – 91–100 points		
Final grade				A+B

Knowledge

Upon completion of the course “Public Dental Health – Practice Management, Professionalism, Legislation, Behavioral Sciences, Social Aspects, and Interprofessional Collaborative Care”, students should: understand the fundamental principles and concepts of public health and public dental health; understand contemporary definitions of oral health and the influence of social, behavioral, and economic factors on the oral health of individuals and communities; be familiar with international and national health policies, legal regulations, and ethical principles in the field of dental medicine; know the epidemiological methods and indicators used to assess the prevalence and severity of oral diseases; understand the main epidemiological study designs used to investigate risk factors and evaluate the effectiveness of preventive and therapeutic approaches; understand the principles of oral health promotion and prevention of oral diseases; understand the structure, organization, management, and financing of healthcare and dental services; be familiar with the basic principles of digital and electronic healthcare; understand the principles of management, organization, and marketing in dental practice; know the principles of ergonomics, occupational safety, and management of professional risks in dental practice; understand the importance of interprofessional collaboration in comprehensive healthcare; know the methods for assessing healthcare needs and dental service needs.

Skills

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to apply the principles of public dental health in analyzing and solving oral health problems; assess risk factors and the need for prevention and treatment in different population groups; use epidemiological indicators and methods for oral health analysis; interpret the results of scientific and epidemiological studies; plan and implement strategies for oral health promotion and prevention of oral diseases; apply legal and ethical requirements in professional practice; use digital technologies and elements of electronic healthcare in dental practice; organize and manage diagnostic and treatment processes effectively in dental practice; apply the principles of ergonomics and prevention of occupational risks; communicate effectively with patients, colleagues, and representatives of other healthcare professions; work in interprofessional teams providing comprehensive healthcare; analyze and evaluate the need for dental services at both individual and population levels.

Competences

Upon successful completion of the course, students should acquire: competence in applying a public health approach in dental medicine; the ability to assess, prevent, and control oral diseases within the population; skills for evidence-based decision-making using scientific and epidemiological data; professional and ethical responsibility in dental practice; competence in managing and organizing dental practice in accordance with contemporary standards and legislation; readiness to use digital technologies and electronic healthcare systems; the ability to communicate effectively and work in an interprofessional environment; competence in identifying and managing occupational risks in dental practice; skills in health promotion and the development of prevention-oriented professional behavior; readiness for continuous professional development and adaptation to contemporary trends in public dental health and healthcare.

Syllabus for Lectures and Exercises

No	Lectures	Hours
1	Introduction to public dental health. Definitions, scope, and contemporary paradigms	2
2	Evolution in dental medicine and dental education	2
3	The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Oral Health Strategy. Key Documents and International Initiatives	2
4	European legislation in dentistry. Recognition of qualifications and professional mobility. Cross-border cooperation	2
5	International organizations (FDI, ADEE, CED) and their institutional role.	2
6	Strategic planning and interprofessional collaboration (IPCP) in dental health policies	3
7	Comparative Analysis of Health Systems and Dental Workforce Availability in Bulgaria and Worldwide.	2
8	The State of Oral Health. Needs Assessment, Vulnerable Groups	2
9	Social determinants and risk factors for oral health. Common Risk Factor Approach (CRFA). The impact of social determinants of health on oral health status.	3
10	Sociological issues relevant to dental practice.	2
11	Indicators for assessing oral hygiene and the prevalence of dental diseases in the population.	2
12	Measurement of quality of life related to oral health	2
13	Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP). Communication Models	2
14	Dental Health Promotion. Principles and Strategies for Dental Health Promotion.	2
15	Prevention. Levels of prevention. Prevention of dental caries and oral cancer.	2
16	Healthcare financing models. Methods for analyzing healthcare financing and methods for resource allocation and payment for healthcare (dental) services	2
17	Healthcare as a system. Dental care within the healthcare system.	2
18	National Legal Framework: Health Act, ZLZ	2
19	National Framework Agreement on Dental Services	2
20	Risk Factors in the Dental Profession. Injury Prevention.	2
21	Musculoskeletal injuries among dentists	2
22	Healthcare management.	2
23	Information Technology in Dental Management: Cybersecurity and Data Protection (GDPR).	2
24	Teamwork in Dental Practice. Types of Teams. Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Teamwork.	2
25	Planning and equipping a dental office.	2
26	Organization of the diagnostic and treatment process in dental practice. Patient positioning and staff working positions. Reach zones.	2
27	Principles of dental ergonomics.	2
28	Infections in dental practice. Cross-infection control.	2
29	Integrated care for patients with systemic comorbidities	2
30	Marketing communications and ethical and legal frameworks for advertising in dentistry.	2
31	An epidemiological approach to the study of dental diseases.	2
32	Descriptive epidemiological studies.	3
33	Measurement of oral health-related quality of life	2
34	Analytical epidemiological studies	3
35	Experimental epidemiological studies. Risk assessment	3
	TOTAL	75

Exercises:

	Topic	Hours
1	Historical Evolution of Oral Prevention, Dental Education, and Public Health	2
2	Global policies and initiatives of the World Health Organization to improve oral health.	2
3	European Union regulations and harmonization of national legislation in dentistry.	2
4	The institutional role of international and national dental and patient organizations.	2
5	Strategic planning and interprofessional collaboration (IPCP) in dental health policies	2
6	Comparative Analysis of Health Systems and Dental Workforce Availability in Bulgaria and Worldwide.	2
7	Social determinants of health and application of the concept of the common risk factor (CRFA).	2
8	Epidemiological indicators for assessing oral health and quality of life	3
9	Communication models and interprofessional collaboration in comprehensive health care.	2
10	Strategies for promoting oral health and preventing diseases at the community level.	2
11	Planning and evaluation of preventive programs. Models for changing health behavior.	3
12	Comparative analysis of models for the organization and financing of dental care.	2
13	Structure of dental care in Bulgaria: Digital transformation and e-health.	2
14	Regulatory requirements and administrative procedures for establishing a dental care facility.	2
15	National Framework Agreement and Pricing Mechanisms.	2
16	Workflow Organization: Ergonomics and Occupational Risk Management in Dental Medicine.	2
17	Management of medical records and coding of diseases according to ICD-10 and ICD-11.	2
18	Information Technology in Dental Management: Cybersecurity and Data Protection (GDPR).	2
19	Human Resources and Facilities Management in Dental Practice.	2
20	Optimizing the working posture and ensuring an accessible environment for the patient.	1
21	Quality management and protocols for controlling nosocomial infections.	2
22	Comprehensive treatment planning for patients with comorbidities within the IPCP framework.	2
23	Marketing communications and ethical and legal frameworks for advertising in dentistry	2
24	Methodology and Design of Epidemiological Studies in the Field of Dental Medicine.	2
25	Critical analysis of scientific publications with a descriptive epidemiological design.	3
26	Statistical and methodological analysis of studies with an analytical epidemiological design.	4
27	Design and interpretation of experimental epidemiological studies (clinical trials).	4
TOTAL		60

Literature and sources:

1. Types of legislation | European Union. - https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/law/types-legislation_bg
2. Dental Activities 2023–2025—NHRD. <https://www.nhif.bg/bg/nrd/2023-2025/dental>
3. Health Act.
4. Health Insurance Act.
5. Law on Medicinal Products for Human Use.
6. Law on Healthcare Facilities.
7. LAW on Professional Organizations of Physicians and Dentists
8. CODE of Professional Ethics for Dentists
9. ICD-10. Mediatly. - <https://mediatly.co/bg>
10. REGULATION No. 3 of May 8, 2013, on the Approval of a Medical Standard for the Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections.
11. Regulation No. 42 on the electronic reporting of dental activities (NZIS codes)
12. National Health Information System: NHIS. <https://his.bg/>
13. National Program for the Prevention of Oral Diseases in Children Aged 0 to 18 in the Republic of Bulgaria 2026–2030
14. NSI – National Statistical Institute. Healthcare. <https://www.nsi.bg/statistical-data/229>
15. Regulation on the Implementation of the Right to Access Medical Care.
16. Burt, B. A., & Eklund, S. A. (2005). *Dentistry, Dental Practice, and the Community*, 6th Edition. Elsevier / Saunders.
17. *Community Oral Health Practice for the Dental Hygienist*, 5th Edition
18. *Concepts in Dental Public Health*. (2010). Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
19. Daly, B., Watt, R. G., Batchelor, P., & Treasure, E. T. (2003). *Essential Dental Public Health*. Oxford University Press.
20. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. - Oral health care in Europe: Financing, access and provision. <https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/publications/i/oral-health-care-in-europe-financing-access-and-provision>
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23. Glick, M. *The Oral-Systemic Health Connection* |
24. Glick, M., Williams, D. M., & Ben Yahya. (2021). *Vision 2030: Delivering Optimal Oral Health for All* | FDI. Geneva: FDI World Dental Federation. <https://www.fdiworlddental.org/vision2030>
25. *Global Oral Health Status Report: Towards Universal Health Coverage for Oral Health by 2030*. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240061484>

26. Global Oral Health Status Report: Towards Universal Health Coverage for Oral Health by 2030. Executive Summary (1st ed). (2022). World Health Organization.
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28. ICD-11. - <https://icd.who.int/en/>
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<https://historyofdentistryandmedicine.com/>
35. Transforming health workforce education in support of universal health coverage.
36. World Health Organization. Global strategy and action plan on oral health 2023–2030.
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SYLLABUS

FOR DENTAL MEDICINE STUDENTS, THIRD YEAR

1. Conceptual foundations of public dental health. Definitions, scope, and contemporary paradigms in dental medicine.
2. Global health policies. Role of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Strategy for Oral Health.
3. International and national institutions. Institutional role of the FDI, ADEE, and CED; professional mobility in the European Union.
4. Strategic planning and interprofessional collaboration (IPCP). Application in dental health policies.
5. Comparative analysis of health care systems. Organization and availability of dental personnel in Bulgaria and globally.
6. Assessment of oral health in the population. Methods for analyzing health needs and identifying vulnerable groups.
7. Social determinants of health. The Common Risk Factor Approach (CRFA).
8. Sociological aspects in dental practice. Influence of the social environment on oral health status and behavior.
9. Epidemiological indicators in dental medicine. Measurement of oral hygiene and the prevalence of major diseases.
10. Assessment of quality of life related to oral health. Methodology and interpretation.
11. Oral health promotion. Principles, strategies, and models for changing health behavior at the community level.
12. Prevention of oral diseases. Levels of prevention; national prevention programs.

13. Healthcare economics and financing. Models for resource allocation and methods of payment for dental services.
14. National legal framework for dental care.
15. Contractual relationships in dental care. National Framework Agreement (NFA) and pricing mechanisms.
16. Management and administration of dental practices. Procedures for establishing and registering healthcare facilities.
17. Digital transformation and e-health. Information technology, the National Health Information System (NHIS), and cybersecurity (GDPR).
18. Teamwork and human resources management. Factors for effectiveness and leadership in the dental team.
19. Material and technical infrastructure. Planning, ergonomic design, and equipping the dental office.
20. Organization of the diagnostic and treatment process. Work areas, patient positioning, and optimization of workflows.
21. Dental ergonomics. Principles for reducing physical strain and increasing productivity.
22. Occupational risks and pathology. Prevention of musculoskeletal disorders among dental practitioners.
23. Infection control. Protocols for the prevention of cross-infections and quality management.
24. Integrated care for systemic diseases. Interprofessional collaboration (IPCP) for complex patients.
25. Marketing and communications. Ethical and legal framework for advertising in dentistry.
26. Professional ethics and deontology. Code of professional ethics and the role of professional associations.
27. Epidemiological methodology in dentistry. Design and stages of scientific studies.
28. Descriptive epidemiological studies. Specifics, application, and critical analysis of scientific publications.
29. Analytical epidemiological studies. Statistical approaches for establishing cause-and-effect relationships.
30. Experimental studies (clinical trials). Design, phases, and risk assessment in dental research.

Approved by a decision of the Council of the Department of Social Medicine and
Healthcare Organization

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