

# **Altamash Institute of Dental Medicine**



## **Dental Surgery Assistant (DSA) Program**

### **Content**

**2026**

# Altamash Institute of Dental Medicine

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Topic	Sub-Topic	Learning Objectives
Dental Anatomy and Physiology	1. Craniofacial Anatomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the bones of the cranium and facial skeleton relevant to dental structures.</li><li>• Locate key anatomical landmarks important for clinical and surgical procedures.</li><li>• Relate the craniofacial structure to functional movements during speech and mastication.</li></ul>
	2. Mandible and Muscles of Mastication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the anatomy and articulations of the mandible.</li><li>• Identify muscles of mastication and explain their actions and innervations.</li><li>• Correlate muscle functions with mandibular movements in dental procedures.</li></ul>
	3. Oral Cavity and Associated Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the structures within the oral cavity including the tongue, palate, and floor of mouth.</li><li>• Explain the anatomy and function of major and minor salivary glands.</li><li>• Relate oral cavity anatomy to clinical dental procedures and oral pathology manifestations.</li></ul>
	4. Dentition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Differentiate between deciduous, mixed, and permanent dentition.</li><li>• Describe the stages of tooth development and eruption sequence.</li><li>• Recognize variations and anomalies relevant to pediatric and orthodontic considerations.</li></ul>
	5. Tooth Morphology and Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and describe external and internal features of all types of teeth.</li><li>• Correlate tooth morphology with occlusion, mastication, and phonation.</li><li>• Recognize morphological variations relevant to restorative and prosthetic work.</li></ul>
	6. Periodontium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and describe the components of the periodontium and their functions.</li><li>• Explain the role of periodontal structures in tooth support and health maintenance.</li><li>• Relate periodontal anatomy to procedures in scaling, root planning, and prosthodontic design.</li></ul>

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Clinical and Technical Skills for Dental Surgery Assistants	1. Dental Chair and Unit Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate correct operation and maintenance of dental chairs and units.</li> <li>• Apply ergonomic principles for operator and assistant positioning.</li> <li>• Prepare the dental operatory for different clinical procedures.</li> </ul>
	2. Dental Instruments and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify instruments used in oral surgery, restorative, and periodontal procedures.</li> <li>• Classify instruments based on use and specialty.</li> <li>• Demonstrate correct cleaning, sterilization, and storage methods.</li> </ul>
	Dental Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify commonly used dental materials and describe their composition and handling.</li> <li>• Demonstrate proper mixing of plaster and fabrication of diagnostic casts.</li> <li>• Recognize safety precautions during material manipulation.</li> </ul>
	Infection Control and Sterilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply infection prevention and control measures in the dental operatory.</li> <li>• Differentiate between sterilization and disinfection methods.</li> <li>• Implement waste management and personal protective measures in the OPD.</li> </ul>
	Dental Health Education and Patient Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate patients on oral hygiene, preventive care, and postoperative instructions.</li> <li>• Assist in patient preparation, chairside communication, and post-treatment care.</li> <li>• Demonstrate empathy and professionalism in patient interaction.</li> </ul>
Dental Radiography, Records Management, and Community Oral Health	Principles of Dental Radiography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the basic principles of X-ray production and radiation safety.</li> <li>• Identify types of dental radiographs (intraoral, extraoral) and their diagnostic purposes.</li> <li>• Describe radiation hazards and protective measures for patients and operators.</li> </ul>
	Radiographic Techniques and Film Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate correct patient positioning and film/sensor placement for periapical, bitewing, and occlusal views.</li> <li>• Operate radiographic equipment under supervision following safety protocols.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop, mount, and label radiographs using manual and digital methods.</li></ul>
	Dental Records and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record patient information accurately in charts and digital systems.</li><li>• Maintain confidentiality and follow ethical/legal standards in data management.</li><li>• Assist in documenting treatment procedures, consent forms, and follow-up notes.</li></ul>
	Community Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe common oral health problems and their prevention at individual and community levels.</li><li>• Assist in planning and conducting school or community dental awareness programs.</li><li>• Demonstrate oral hygiene instruction and chairside counseling techniques.</li></ul>
	Patient Communication and Professional Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate empathetic and culturally sensitive communication with patients.</li><li>• Apply ethical principles and professional conduct in all dental settings.</li><li>• Support the dental team in delivering safe, respectful, and patient-centered care.</li></ul>

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## **Code of Conduct**

- Punctuality in attending session and submitting assignments.
- Respect for faculty, staff and their working hours.
- Please call/message during the office hours.
- Devote an appropriate amount of time and energy toward achieving academic excellence.
- Take primary responsibility to inform and conduct themselves in accordance with the AIDM policies and procedures, program requirements.
- Periodically access email account for any announcements and updates.
- Inform the program Director/coordinator (in advance) of any leaves of absence that may be needed.
- Exercise honest and ethical behavior in all their academic pursuits, whether these undertakings pertain to study, assignments or examination.
- Maintain academic integrity in all aspects and avoid plagiarism. AIDM has zero tolerance policy for plagiarism.

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## Learning Resources

### Textbooks and Reference Books

- Prescribed textbooks for each course present above with each course content
- Additional reference books for in-depth study

### E-Learning Platforms

- Learning management systems (e.g., Moodle, Google Classroom)
- Online course materials and recorded lectures
- E-books and digital libraries (e.g., PubMed, HEC)

### Lecture Notes and Handouts

- Instructor-provided lecture notes and presentations
- Class handouts, assignments, and reading materials

### Skills Labs and Practical Facilities

- On-campus laboratories for hands-on learning (e.g., simulation labs, dental clinics)
- Access to clinical or practical equipment

### Tutorials and Study Guides

- Supplementary study materials and guides for specific courses
- Research mentorship programs

### Library and Research Support

- Access to the institution's physical library
- Research support services (e.g., RDRRC, research librarians, writing centers)

### Assessment Tools and Practice Exams

- Mock exams and sample question banks
- Formative assessment tools for self-evaluation
- Practice questions and exam guides

### Study Groups and Collaboration Spaces

- Dedicated study rooms and collaborative learning spaces
- Online discussion on zoom

### Career Development Resources

- Career guidance tools and professional development workshops
- Networking opportunities with alumnus

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## Assessment Policy and Process:

### Types of Assessment

#### A. Formative Assessment (Continuous Assessment)

Formative assessments are designed to monitor learning progress and provide constructive feedback. These assessments **do not directly contribute to final marks**, but satisfactory performance is mandatory for eligibility to appear in internal and final exams.

#### Components include:

- **Class tests / quizzes** (written or oral)
- **End-of-rotation practical exams** in each clinical posting
- **Assignments and presentations**
- **Attendance and professional behavior evaluations**

#### B. Internal (Summative) Examination

The internal examination will evaluate cumulative knowledge and skill acquisition prior to the final Sindh Medical Faculty exam.

#### Components:

1. **Mid-Term Examination** (theory and practical) – held midway through the program.
2. **Mock Examination** (theory and practical) – held approximately one month before the final exam.
3. Both **Mid-Term** and **Mock** exams contribute to the **Internal Examination Marks** forwarded to Sindh Medical Faculty.

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## C. Final Examination (Sindh Medical Faculty)

The **Final Examination** is conducted and certified by the **Sindh Medical Faculty**. It includes:

- **Theory paper(s)** covering all modules
- **Practical/clinical examination** assessing chairside assisting, infection control, and communication skills
- Passing this examination is mandatory for the award of the **Dental Surgery Assistant Training Program**

**Passing Criteria: Minimum 50% marks** are required to pass each component (theory and practical separately) in internal and final examinations.

### Attendance Requirements

- **Minimum 75% attendance** in lectures and **75% attendance** in **clinical/OPD rotations** is mandatory to be eligible for internal and final examinations.
- Attendance will be monitored monthly; warnings will be issued for short attendance.

### Academic Progress and Promotion

- Students must pass the **internal examination** to be eligible for the **Sindh Medical Faculty Final Examination**.
- Any student found guilty of misconduct, plagiarism, or examination malpractice will be subject to disciplinary action according to institutional regulations.

### Feedback and Remediation

- Formative feedback will be provided after each internal and rotation assessment.
- Students requiring additional support will be given **remedial sessions** before the final examination.

**Record Keeping:** All assessment records (attendance, marks, evaluation sheets, and feedback forms) will be maintained in the departmental academic office and submitted to the Sindh Medical Faculty as required.

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## Grading

Marks Range (%)	Grade	Description
85 – 100	A	Excellent
75 – 84	B+	Very Good
65 – 74	B	Good
50 – 64	C	Satisfactory / Pass
< 50	F	Fail

### Theory–Practical Division

Each examination (internal and final) will be split as follows:

- **Theory:** 50%
- **Practical / Clinical:** 50%

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## Marks Distribution

Component	Assessment Type	Weightage (%)	Details
<b>Formative Assessments</b>	Continuous Internal Evaluation	(non-graded, mandatory for eligibility)	Includes class tests, assignments, end-of-rotation exams, and professionalism assessment.
<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	Internal	20%	Conducted midway through the academic year; includes theory & practical.
<b>Mock Examination</b>	Internal	30%	Conducted about one month before final exam; includes theory & practical.
<b>Final Examination (Sindh Medical Faculty)</b>	External	50%	Comprehensive theory & practical exam conducted by Sindh Medical Faculty.
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	

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## Program Evaluation

- Pass/fail ratio of continuous and summative assessments will be evaluated
- 75% attendance is mandatory to be eligible for annual professional examination
- Feedback will be taken
  - Regarding course from Employers, students and faculty
  - Student's regarding faculty
  - Faculty for all students
  - Graduates and alumni

### Contact Details

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation and Department</b>	<b>Email address</b>
1	Professor Dr. Zia Abbas	Program Director	zia_abbas@yahoo.com
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**Happy Learning ☺**