

Dental Ethics

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B.D.S, MSc in Dental Public Health, UKM

Grade Level: 3rd Grade

Date: 16 September 2026

Introductory Lecture

B.D.S in Dental
Surgery/ HMU at
2011-2012

M.Sc in Dental Public
Health/ UKM Malaysia

**Dr. Sara Sherzad
Rasool**

About me:

- I am kind but know your limits, don't cross it.
- I don't argue, I punish with marks.

Background:

- * Psychology
- * Emotional Intelligence
- * 15 years experience in the local government centers and Directory of Preventive Affairs

Background

- **About subject :**
- What is the difference between Dental Public Health, Community Dentistry and Preventive Dentistry or Prevention?
- Why do you think it's important?

These three terms are closely related, but they focus on different levels of dental care:

1. Preventive Dentistry

The main question is: “How can I prevent dental disease in this patient or group of patients?”

It is mainly clinical and patient-centered.

Examples:

Tooth brushing and oral hygiene education

Fluoride toothpaste/varnish

Fissure sealants

Dietary counseling to reduce caries risk

Smoking cessation counseling

Regular dental examinations



2. Community Dentistry

The question becomes: “How can we improve oral health for this particular community?”

It applies dental knowledge to groups such as:

Schoolchildren, Elderly people, Rural communities, Low-income populations, Pregnant women.

Examples:

School-based fluoride programs

Oral-health education campaigns

Community dental clinics

Screening programs

Mobile dental services



3. Dental Public Health

This is the broader population-health and policy discipline.

The question is: “How can we improve oral health for the whole population using organized efforts and health systems?”

It includes:

Epidemiology and disease surveillance

Oral-health needs assessment

Health-policy development

Planning and evaluating dental services

Health economics

Prevention strategies at population level

Reducing inequalities in oral health

Research to determine what interventions work



Easy way to remember:

Preventive dentistry → ONE individual or group

Community dentistry → ONE community

Dental public health → WHOLE POPULATION / HEALTH SYSTEM

There is considerable overlap, and community dentistry is often considered part of or closely associated with dental public health, while preventive dentistry is more strongly associated with clinical practice.

Rules

- 1- No phones during class, I first warn, if repeated I **deduct marks**.
- 2- You can enter class anytime but you will be recorded as **absent** in attendance list.
- 3- **Questions** are allowed all the time and encouraged.
- 4- If I see you talking with your friend I will **change your place**.
- 5- **Write your names** and put it in front of you in my class, I would like to memorize your names.
- 6- Our lecture will be **interactive**, so I need everyone to pay attention.
- 7- What are the nationalities in this class?
- 8-



Assessment Methods

80 marks:

First midterm- 20 marks

Second midterm- 20 marks

Final – 40 marks

20 marks remaining:

Attendance- 2

Participation- 3

Homework- 2

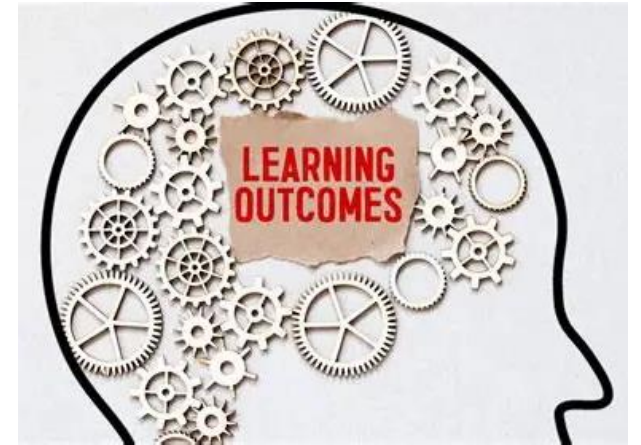
Quizzes - 3 (mostly during the lecture and about the current lecture or one previous)

Exercises as Role Play groups - 10



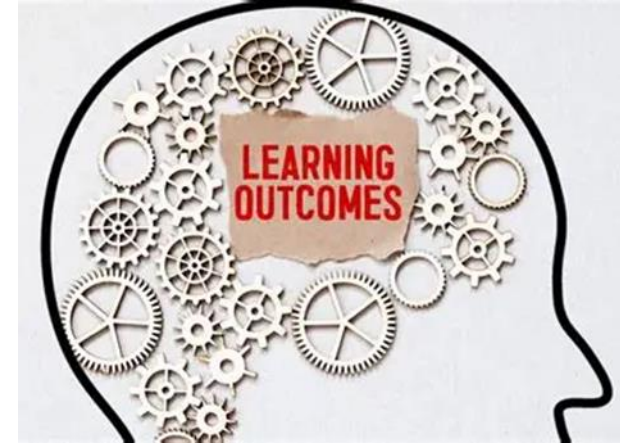
Course outcomes

- **By the end of the course, the student will be able to:**
 - Define ethics, morality, and dental ethics.
 - Explain the relationship between ethics and law.
 - Describe dentistry as both a science and an art.
 - Identify the fundamental values underlying the dental profession.
 - Explain the major ethical principles of dental practice.
 - Describe major ethical theories and approaches to ethical reasoning.
 - Explain professional codes of dental ethics and their importance.
 - Describe the rights and responsibilities of dentists and patients.



Course outcomes

- Apply ethical principles to dentist–patient situations.
- Use ethical decision-making models such as DECIDE and ACD.
- Analyze ethical problems involving incompetent or uncooperative patients.
- Identify conflicts of interest and situations involving dual loyalty.
- Apply principles of justice to issues involving limited healthcare resources.
- Recognize unethical or unsafe professional practices and appropriate professional responses.
- Explain the principles of informed consent and confidentiality.
- Describe ethical considerations in dental research and clinical trials.



Course outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of professional responsibilities toward patients, colleagues, the dental profession, and society.
- Explain the dentist's responsibilities in public and global health.
- Recognize ethical responsibilities related to scientific research and publication.
- Identify emerging and future ethical challenges in dentistry.

