

University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine

Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Study Programme in Dental Medicine

Academic Year 2025/2026

Course Title

Dental Photography

Department/Chair Delivering the Course

Department of Fixed Prosthodontics

Department Address

University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, Gundulićeva 5, HR-10000 Zagreb

Course Status

Elective course

Year of Study

4th year

Semester

Winter semester

Number of ECTS Credits

1 ECTS (1.5 ECTS for students enrolled in the academic year 2020/2021 or earlier)

Course Leader

Prof. Marko Jakovac, PhD, jakovac@sfzg.hr

Other Teaching Staff Involved

Assist. Prof. Vladimir Prpić, PhD

Number of Teaching Hours

Type	Winter Semester	Summer Semester	Total (Both Semesters)
Lectures	–	–	–
Seminars	5	–	5
Practical	10	–	10

Total	15	–	15
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1 hour = 45 minutes

Type of Practical Work

Laboratory exercises

Course Aims and Objectives

The main objective of this course is to educate future doctors of dental medicine, who possess broad academic knowledge and adequate clinical experience in performing a variety of procedures, in an area that is increasingly becoming a legal requirement in Europe and the United States. Dental documentation today routinely includes a standard set of photographs at the beginning, during, and after treatment, alongside traditional patient charts and radiographs.

In restorative dentistry and prosthodontics, photography commonly involves macro techniques of individual teeth or segments of dental arches and occlusion. In prosthodontics, it facilitates communication between the dentist and dental technician, ensuring accurate information transfer for the fabrication of prosthetic restorations. Photographs also assist in identifying potential issues and adjusting prostheses for optimal outcomes.

In oral surgery, photography is used to document pathological conditions, surgical procedures, and treatment outcomes. In oral medicine, photographs capture mucosal and gingival changes, as well as alterations in hard tissues. In orthodontics, standardized sets of intraoral and extraoral images are mandatory diagnostic tools taken at the start, during, and end of therapy. In forensic dentistry, photography is an integral part of all forensic processes and constitutes a central part of the documentation.

In aesthetic dentistry—globally and increasingly locally—dentists use photography for before-and-after treatment documentation and as a marketing tool to communicate outcomes to current and prospective patients. Finally, photography is useful in education and presentations, whether for patient education or professional case presentations.

It is clear that dental photography is essential across all dental specialties and should therefore be mastered and brought closer to new generations of young dentists.

Course Enrollment Requirements

There are no prerequisites for 4th-year students of the integrated undergraduate and graduate dental medicine program. The course is elective and may be chosen freely.

Programme Learning Outcomes Supported by This Course

- ☒ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to professionalism, ethics, and law
- ☐ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to communication and social skills
- ☒ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to basic knowledge and literature research
- ☒ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to collecting clinical data
- ☒ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to diagnosis and treatment planning
- ☐ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to therapy and maintaining oral health
- ☐ Knowledge, skills, and competences related to preventive measures and health promotion

Expected Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

- Explain the importance and benefits of dental photography in medical documentation
- Define types of intraoral and extraoral photographs

Skills

- Select appropriate lighting and lenses based on the type of photograph (intraoral or extraoral)
- Choose the correct aperture and shutter speed for various types of photographs
- Create a set of photographs for specific diagnostic purposes in dental medicine
- Analyze, digitally process, and archive photographs
- Capture a set of digital images for diagnostic and documentation purposes in dental medicine

Course Content

Seminars – Winter Semester

Topic	Hours
Photography in aesthetic dentistry and prosthodontics	1

Photography in restorative dental medicine and oral medicine	1
Photography in orthodontics and forensic dental medicine	1
Photography in oral surgery and periodontology	1
Photo editing	1

1 hour = 45 minutes

Practical Exercises – Winter Semester

Topic	Hours
Introduction to camera operation, additional equipment, basic handling of digital cameras, automatic and manual modes, ring flash, twin flash	2
Shooting exercises on test objects, long-distance and macro photography, various apertures, exposure correction, manual/auto focus, error recognition and correction	2
Extraoral photography – profile and portrait sets, principles, distance calibration, head orientation, image analysis, use of equipment (background, flash, softbox)	2
Intraoral photography – photo sets, lighting, focusing, depth of field, use of mirrors, error detection	2
Photography protocols and image editing	2

1 hour = 45 minutes

Student Obligations

Students are required to attend classes and complete assigned tasks.

Student Progress Monitoring

Attendance and participation in seminars and practicals are monitored.

Method of Examination

Written exam

Exam Dates

Extra Exam Periods	Regular Exam – Winter	Extra Exam Periods	Regular Exam – Summer	Regular Exam – Autumn	Dates
	18.02.		10.06., 10.07.	02.09.	

Mandatory Literature

- Jakovac M. Protocol. Quintessence Int. Berlin, 2024. 700p.

Additional Literature

- Carlos Ayala Paz. The Workbook. 1st Edition. Quintessence Pub Co, 2017.
- Ahmad I. Essentials of Dental Photography. 1st Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2019.
- Bengel W. Mastering Digital Dental Photography. 1st Edition. Quintessence Publishing (IL), 2006.
- Loiacono P, Pascoletti L. Photography in Dentistry: Theory and Techniques in Modern Documentation. Quintessenza Edizioni, Milano, 2012.