SIAST
SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Putting knowledge to work.
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Professional Portfolios
Your Career Depends On It!

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DA
SIAST – Wascana Campus
Regina, Sask.
Portfolios
Rationale for Portfolio

- PLAR Assessment
  - From Dental Assisting / Dental Therapy to Dental Hygiene
- Career Management
  - Continuing education and licensing requirements
- Career Laddering
  - From private practice to various settings such as:
    - hospital/research/administration
Transfer Credit

**Transfer credit** may be applicable if:

- candidates have graduated from a recognized and accredited Dental Assisting program within the past 5 years (3 years for practical courses).
- the course of study was 90-95% equivalent to the SIAST course.
PLAR Credit

**PLAR credit** can be earned if the candidate has:

- 2 or more years of recent (within the past 5 years) successful experience as:
  - a dental assistant
  - a dental therapist

- Completed courses that are not eligible for transfer credit.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANAT 163</td>
<td>DENTAL ANATOMY</td>
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<td>ANAT 164</td>
<td>EMBRYOLOGY AND HISTOLOGY</td>
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<td>ANAT 165</td>
<td>ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY</td>
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<td>DENT 164</td>
<td>PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY</td>
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<td>DENT 165</td>
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<td>DHYG 165</td>
<td>PREVENTIVE TECHNIQUES **</td>
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<td>NUTR 160</td>
<td>NUTRITION</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDGR 268</td>
<td>TECHNIQUES IN RADIOLOGY **</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Candidates Handbook
Content:

Why is PLAR assessment a consideration?

What is the process to receive PLAR?

How to develop a PLAR evidence portfolio.

What types of evidence to include.

Methods of assessing prior learning.

Frequently asked questions …
Evidence Collection for PLAR – Practical Courses

Includes:
- Personal identification page
- Skill resume or program skill list
- A letter of validation from employer
- Documentation of a telephone interview
- Work samples
Portfolio of Professional Dental Assisting Competencies
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North Battleford, Saskatchewan
Phone: (306)251-7878
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E-Mail: jsimmons@sasktel.sk.ca

Purpose of this portfolio is for submission to the SIAST Dental Hygiene Program for PLAR in following course(s):
- Dental Technology
- Preventive Techniques
- Techniques in Radiology
Resume
Validation from Employer

Validation statement

I have actually seen _____ , complete the learning outcomes that I have signed for on the competency sheet for the Dental Technology – DENT 165 and I have confidence he/she is competent to perform those tasks in a manner that demonstrates required knowledge, needed critical thinking and sound judgment.

Signed ______
Work Samples – Dental Technology

- One set of diagnostic study models
- One mouth guard
Work Samples – Techniques in Radiology

- One adult full mouth radiographic series
Work Samples – Techniques in Radiology

- One panoramic film
Formal Portfolio Development
Land of Living Skies - Saskatchewan
Other Experiences…
Volunteer Experiences…
Creating Your Dental Assisting Career Portfolio
Professional Portfolio Content…

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Educational History
- Resume
- Evidence
- Philosophy of the Profession
- Scope of Practice/Skill Listing
Collection of Evidence

Three types of evidence:

- Direct
- Indirect
- Self
Portfolio Development

- Faculty driven
  - Year long process
  - Scheduled sessions regarding:
    - Employability expectations
    - Resume/Cover Letter writing
    - Philosophy development
    - Skill / Competency List
# Employability Skills for Dental Programs

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Maintain regular and punctual attendance.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Maintain a professional appearance.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Demonstrate professional behavior.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Work well with others.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Work independently or as a team member.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Use critical thinking skills.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Use time and resources effectively.</td>
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Portfolio Development

- **Faculty driven**
  - Year long process
  - Scheduled sessions regarding:
    - Employability expectations
    - Resume/Cover Letter writing
    - Philosophy development
    - Skill / Competency List
    - Staff / Student Meetings
Portfolio Development

**Student responsibility**
- Evidence collection – past & present
- Organization of evidence
Impact on Students…

- Development of organizational skills
  - Time and resource management
- Focus on employability skills
  - Teamwork and leadership
- Valuing documentation
  - Skills recognition
- Presentation
Impact on Faculty…

- Development of organizational skills
  - Time and resource management
- Focus on employability skills
  - Teamwork and leadership
- Valuing documentation
  - Skills recognition
- Presentation
Ongoing Portfolio Development

- Responsibility
  - Professionally
  - Ethically

Appreciation of Lifelong Learning
Professional Portfolios
Your Career Depends On It!
Saskatchewan in Winter