



PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Resolution No. 09
Series of 2025

**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CAREER PROGRESSION
AND SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM (CERTIFICATE OF DIPLOMATE
IN SPECIALIZED DENTISTRY-DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (PQF LEVEL 8)
FOR THE DENTISTRY PROFESSION**

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10968 or the "Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act", states that it is the policy of the State to institutionalize the PQF to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employee specific training standards and qualifications aligned with industry standards;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of R.A. No. 10968 states that a PQF shall be established which shall describe the level of educational qualifications and set the standards for qualification outcomes. It is a quality assured national system for development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of the country;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of R.A. No. 10968 states that PQF shall incorporate the qualifications level descriptors defined in the terms of knowledge, skills and values, application, and degree of independence;

WHEREAS, Section 5 (c) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 10968 provides for the objective of the PQF which is to align domestic qualification standards with the international qualifications framework thereby enhancing recognition of the value and comparability of Philippine qualifications and supporting the mobility of Filipino students, workers and professionals;

WHEREAS, Section 4 (a) of R.A. No. 10912 or the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016 states that there shall be formulated and implemented Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs in each of the regulated professions in order to enhance and upgrade the competencies and qualifications of professionals for the practice of their professions pursuant to the PQF, the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (ASEAN MRAs);

WHEREAS, Section 12 of Article III of R.A. No. 10912 mandates the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) and the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) to formulate and implement a Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) for every profession;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Guiding Principles for Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems is a project planned in the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2010-2015 and developed by the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM). This ASEAN Guiding Principles was adopted by the 24th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) held on 15 May 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. This ASEAN Guiding Principles aims to provide the basis for developing trust and understanding of national frameworks and competency certification systems of all ASEAN Member States (AMS) and to provide principles and protocols for developing processes

for recognition of these systems. Synergy with the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRf) was taken into consideration in the production of the ASEAN Guiding Principles as it is expected to complement the AQRf. Competency certification systems across the AMS are focused on the development and acquisition of competence. Competency certification systems across the region focus on all skill levels including higher levels or occupations, and professional qualifications;

WHEREAS, the Commission likewise adopts the ASEAN Guiding Principles on the implementation of the CPSP for every regulated profession. The Guidelines provide additional basis for developing trust and understanding for the assessment of Professional Practice Outcomes (PPOs). It also aims to provide principles and protocols for developing processes for the issuance of Certificate of Recognition, and regulation on the Conferment of the Professional Qualification Titles;

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulatory Board of Dentistry issued Resolution No. 7 (s. 2021) on the creation of a career progression and specialization program for Dentistry profession;

WHEREAS, there is a need to issue guidelines on the implementation of this career progression and specialization program for dentistry profession;

WHEREAS, after a series of consultations with stakeholders, the PRB formulated the guidelines on the implementation of the career progression and specialization program;

NOW THEREFORE, the Professional Regulatory Board of Dentistry hereby **RESOLVES**, as it hereby **RESOLVED**, to issue these Guidelines on the Implementation of a Career Progression and Specialization Program (**CERTIFICATE OF DIPLOMATE in SPECIALIZED DENTISTRY-DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (PQF LEVEL 8) FOR THE DENTISTRY PROFESSION**), as follows:

Section 1. Definition of Terms

- a) **Accreditation** – refers to the official approval of achievement standards, including qualifications or unit(s) of a qualification, usually for a particular period of time, as being able to meet particular requirements defined by an accrediting agency;¹
- b) **Accredited Qualifications** – refers to the qualifications which have been granted approval by an accrediting agency or organization as having met specific requirements or standards of quality;²
- c) **Accrediting Agencies** – are those competent bodies (such as national qualifications agencies, national accreditation agencies, official review boards or other nationally approved bodies or agencies with the responsibility to approve qualifications) that manage program and qualifications accreditation under national legislation. Accrediting agencies function within a quality assurance system;³

¹ Glossary of Terms (AQRf Referencing Guidelines)

² Glossary of Terms (AQRf Referencing Guidelines)

³ Glossary of Terms (AQRf Referencing Guidelines)

- d) **Certification** – refers to the process of issuing a certificate, diploma or title of learning outcomes formally attesting that a set of learning outcomes (knowledge, know-how, skills and/or competences) acquired by an individual have been assessed and validated by a competent body against a predefined standard.⁴
- e) **Certifying and/ or Awarding Body** – refers to the Body issuing qualifications (e.g. certificates, diplomas or titles) formally recognizing the achievement of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and/ or competences) of an individual, following an assessment and validation procedure;⁵
- f) **CPSP-CATS Committee** – refers to the profession’s Career Progression and Specialization Program and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System Committee, constituted pursuant to Commission Resolution No. 1262 (s 2020), as amended by the Commission Resolution No. 1418 (s 2021) and the respective Board Resolutions;
- g) **Professional Practice Outcomes** – refers to the program outcomes and learning outcomes which are the expected results of significant or essential learnings that the professional has achieved and can reliably be demonstrated once implemented into practice in accordance with the professional standard specified for a qualification title;
- h) **Recognition** – refers to the formal recognition wherein the process of granting official learning outcomes status to skills and competences either through:
- Awarding of qualifications (certificates, diploma or titles) as a result of assessment, or
 - Granting of equivalence, credit units or waivers, validation of gained skills and/or competences;⁶
- i) **Qualification Framework Credit (QF Credit)** - refers to a measurement of the size or volume of learning in a learning program. It enables learners to know the extent of effort to be spent to complete a learning program and acquire the relevant qualification; and
- j) **Quality Assurance System** – includes all aspects of a country’s activity related to assuring the quality of education and training. These systems include the following elements:
- Clear and measurable objectives and standards, guidelines for implementation, including stakeholder involvement;
 - Appropriate resources;
 - Consistent evaluation methods, self-assessment and external review;
 - Feedback mechanisms and procedures for improvement, and
 - Widely accessible evaluation results;⁷

Section 2. Implementation of each of the Identified Career Progression and Specialization Programs under Professional track – In the implementation of each of the identified Career Progression and Specialization Programs under professional track, the following shall be considered:

⁴ Cedefop, 2011

⁵ Glossary of Terms (AQRF Referencing Guidelines)

⁶ Cedefop, 2011

⁷ Glossary of Terms (AQRF Referencing Guidelines)

A. Overview of the Diplomate Certification Program for General Dental Practitioners

The practice of Dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental technology in the Philippines is regulated by Republic Act (RA) No. 9484, also known as the Philippine Dental Act of 2007. Under Section 6 (d) of Article II of the law, the Professional Regulatory Board of Dentistry (PRB-DNT) is given the power to adopt or recommend measures or discharge duties, as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.” Moreover, Section 29 of Article IV of the same law mandates the PRB-DNT, in collaboration with the accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO), to implement continuing professional education among practicing dentists, dental hygienists, and dental technologists in consonance with the guidelines of the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) council of the Commission.

To promote and upgrade the practice of professions in the country, the Congress of the Philippines passed RA No. 10912 or the “Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016”, with the objective of implementing measures that will continuously improve the competence of the professionals, in accordance with the international standards of practice. In particular, Section 4 of Article II seeks to:

- a) enhance and upgrade the competencies and qualifications of professionals for the practice of their professions pursuant to the PQF, the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs);
- b) ensure international alignment of competencies and qualifications of professionals through career progression mechanisms leading to specialization/sub-specialization;
- c) ensure the development of quality assured mechanisms for the validation, accreditation, and recognition of formal, non-formal and informal learning outcomes, including professional work experiences and prior learning;
- d) ensure maintenance of core competencies and development of advanced and new competencies, in order to respond to national, regional and international labor market needs; and
- e) recognize and ensure the contributions of professionals in uplifting the general welfare, economic growth, and development of the nation.

The “Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act” or the RA No. 10968 was enacted in response to the ASEAN Integration of 2015 and to uplift, align and harmonize the educational system of the Philippines to be at par globally. It aims to institutionalize the PQF to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employees specific training standards and qualifications aligned with industry standards. It is a quality assured national system for the development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of the country. PQF seeks to align domestic qualification standards with the international qualifications framework thereby enhancing recognition of the value and comparability of Philippine qualifications and supporting the mobility of students, workers and professionals as indicated in Section 4 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the PQF Act. As provided for under the IRR of the PQF Act, there are different pathways and equivalency systems which can be utilized for seamless education transfer and/or career progression between education levels corresponding to the PQF levels.

The PRB-DNT issued PRB-DNT Resolution No. 4 (s. 2020) or “Revised Guidelines on Preceptorship Programs Offered and Operated by Dentists” prescribing the guidelines on preceptorship programs offered and operated by dentists and the subsequent Republic Acts pertaining to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and PQF that have been ratified into law. In the manifesto, the PRB-DNT issued an updated definition of “Preceptorship Program”, which clearly defines it as a training program of any of the seven specialties in dentistry and integration of knowledge and skills in a particular discipline which should be conducted in a: (1) Department of Health (DOH) accredited hospital or (2) Commission on Higher Education (CHED) recognized dental school/ college, or (3) Other training institutions accredited by the Board, run by program instructors possessing credentials as required by the Board. Furthermore, the PRB-DNT reiterated that a dental training program should be university-based or hospital-based run by specialist/s who have undergone extensive training or obtained a degree in an accredited dental university” (PRB-DNT Resolution No. 12, s. 2007).⁸ The preceptorship programs and its training institutions shall be accredited by the PRBDNT subject to the approval of the Commission.

Thus, a dentist who aspires to move through the Career Progression levels can use either of the pathways/tracks to achieve his goal., to wit: via the Academic/Comprehensive track where he would undergo a formal full-time academic and clinical training on the concerned specialty in a CHED recognized school/college/university in the Philippines or abroad; or through Professional track/part-time upon successfully finishing a Dental Specialty Training Program that has been approved by the Commission upon the recommendation of the PRBDNT.

The definition and description of the educational and training program with the inclusion of the Professional Practice Outcomes and competencies to be acquired and demonstrated for the implementation of Certificate of Diplomate in Specialized Dentistry- Dental Public Health (PQF Level 8).

There is only one (1) Module, the Implementation of Public Health Program/Project that shall be offered as CPD activities for all dental practitioners and shall be credited in the Dental Public Health Specialization Program for those who intend to pursue the higher Qualification Title, the Diplomate Certification Program.

The basic requirements for Diplomate Certification Program for General Dental Practitioners are the following:

- Must be a Certified Fellow of the Academy for at least five (5) years;
- Has shown evidence of scholarly works in dental public health (at least two (2) publications in a peer-reviewed national or international journal);
- Must have at least ten (10) years' experience in dental public health, either in teaching, practice or research;
- Has implemented dental public health or health service delivery projects (at least two (2) projects);
- Have attended at least two (2) scientific seminars on Public Health yearly;
- Must have completed the module on the Implementation of Public Health Program/Project
- Must have taken and passed the Diplomate Program Examination;

⁸ Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9484, known as “The Philippine Dental Act of 2007”

B. Entry requirements, objectives and learning outcomes for Diplomate Certification Program

1. Entry requirements for Diplomate Certification Program for Dental Public Health

- 1.1 The applicant must be a licensed Filipino dentist as evidenced by a valid PRC Identification Card and Dentist's Certificate of Registration (COR).
- 1.2 The applicant must be a member of the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization in good standing (Certification from APO/AIPO required).
- 1.3 The following documents must be submitted to the accredited specialty society:
 - a) Cover letter stating objectives for joining the training program.
 - b) Completed application form.
 - c) Current curriculum vitae and three (3) 2x2 photos in white background.
 - d) Three (3) letters of recommendation which should include an assessment of the applicant's dental background, knowledge, and character.
- 1.4 The applicant will undergo an interview and screening by the accredited specialty society. If the applicant passes the screening process, the applicant then proceeds to take the examination for Diplomate Certification Program for General Dental Practitioners.

2. Objective

The main objective of the program is to prepare dental public health specialists in creating and presenting a public health research/public health program/project in a scientific forum.

3. Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the module on Implementation of Public Health Program/Project, the participant is able to create and present a public health project/paper in a scientific forum.

4. Method of Delivery and Duration of the Program

The Diplomate Certification Program is designed to advance the knowledge and experience of General Dental Practitioners in the field of Dental Public Health. It is a modular training program that should be completed satisfactorily.

4.1 Stepwise Approach

This course has been conceptualized as a modular program to enable the general dental practitioner to work while undergoing the training. For this reason, it will follow a stepladder approach. (Refer to Table 1).

Table 1 Stepwise scheduling of courses.

1st Month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month	9th month	10th month	11th month	12th month
Module on Implementation of Public Health Program/Project											

Table 2 Module Map to demonstrate that learning outcomes will be achieved.

Learning outcomes	Creates and presents public health projects/papers in a scientific forum.
Module on the Implementation of Public Health Program/Project	Practiced

4.2 Blended Learning Course Structure:

- **Number of Module:** Only one (1) module is offered.
- **Number of Units:** The module contains 1,5 or 5 units (1 unit = 16 hours) which may be spread out within a month to a maximum of 12 months. Participants are expected to prepare for face-to-face sessions for workshops, small group discussions, and oral exams.

4.3 Policies for Attendance: Participants must complete all the required tasks/ assignments. Non-compliance with the said requirements disqualifies the participant from the Diplomate Certification Program.

4.4 Modes of Delivery: The following modes of learning will be used:

- Lectures (may be online or face-to-face, synchronous or asynchronous)
- Readings and Individual Papers or Group reports
- Small Group Discussions
- Exercises
- Workshops

5. Assessment of Performance

The learning outcomes will be measured through a variety of ways. Quizzes/ examinations may be online or face-to-face, and projects and session activities will be used. Participant presentations and reports can be done through available online technologies.

- Each module will specify their learning outcomes. These learning outcomes must be satisfactorily demonstrated before trainees are given a grade of "PASS".
- Module must be completed satisfactorily before the certificate is awarded.

6. Blended Learning Modules

The module is offered in blended learning modes which may include a combination of online and face-to-face, synchronous and asynchronous sessions.

7. Translation of Credit units to hour

One (1) unit is equivalent to 16 hours. The module may contain 5 units or 80 hours which may be spread out within a month. Participants are expected to prepare for face-to-face sessions for workshops, small group discussions and/or exams.

8. The Module: Implementation of Public Health Program/Project

- **Learning Time** : 80 hours
- **Total Credit Units** : 5 units
- **Core Subjects** :

Core Subjects/Lectures	Approximate Contact Hours
1. Project proposal mentoring	24 hours (1.5 units)
2. Technical/ Ethical Review and Approval ⁸	
3. Implementation of the approved protocol	24 hours (1.5 hours)
4. Paper presentation	32 hours (2 units)
TOTAL	80 hours (5 units)

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the module, the participant is able to:

- Apply the knowledge acquired in the Fellow Certification Program in the conceptualization of a project.
- Implement the program/project.
- Present the results of the research study in a scientific forum.

⁸ If indicated, Institutional or Community Approval

Professional Practice Outcomes	Intended Learning Outcomes	Topics	Approximate Credit Units Lecture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements the program/project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies the knowledge acquired in the Fellow Certification Program in the conceptualization of a project. Implements the program/project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposal mentoring Technical/Ethical Review and Approval 	<p>24 hours (1.5 units)</p>

Professional Practice Outcomes	Intended Learning Outcomes	Topics	Approximate Credit Units Lecture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the results in a scientific forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the results of the research study in a scientific forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the approved protocol Paper presentation 	<p>24 hours (1.5 units)</p> <p>32 hours (2 units)</p>

Module Schedule: 80 hours approximate contact Hours

9. Competency Assessment System for the Program

A participant must submit all the requirements and successfully pass all the examinations for each of the modules for the participant to be granted the **Diplomate in Specialized Dentistry-Dental Public Health**. If the participant fails to meet the standards set forth at any point of the Training Program, the participant will be asked to exit the Certification Course.

a. Formative Assessment:

- Active participation in lectures/seminars and web-based e-learning sources.
- Active participation in the meetings.

b. Online assessment either individual reporting or case presentation.

c. Summative Assessment

- Written examinations and submission of module requirements.
- Final Exam/ Comprehensive Examination.
- Present a result of project or research in a scientific forum.

10. Method of Delivery

The default method of delivery is face-to-face. A blended learning program shall be implemented and/or applied during times of health emergencies or the like, when there are restrictions to movement (Online Learning and Face to Face Teaching).

11. Duration of the Program in terms of number of hours, weeks, months or years (total number of hours)

- The program consists of 80 hours (5 units) of lecture/didactic (theoretical) component.
- The program shall be completed in 12 months, with a maximum extension of 24 months.

12. Number of Qualification Framework Credits to be awarded per module/activity/rotation basis and the total to be awarded at the end of the program.

13.

Module	Credit Units (1 unit=16 hours lecture)
Implementation of Public Health Program/Project	5 units
TOTAL	5 units

14. Teaching Learning Activities

- Focused group and small group discussion
- Lectures (may be online or face-to-face, synchronous or asynchronous)
- Readings, Individual Papers and Reports
- Workshops, small group discussion and video presentation

15. Quality Assurance Mechanism: The PRC accredited Dental Public Health specialty society is recognized by the AIPO/APO which adopts a quality assurance mechanism that is internationally recognized.

If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the country.

Let a copy hereof be furnished the U.P. Law Center.

Done in the City of Manila this 20th day of February, 2025.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF DENTISTRY

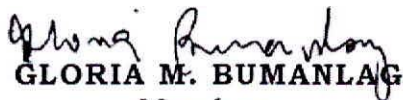
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Guidelines on the Implementation of a Career Progression and Specialization Program
(Certificate of Diplomate in Specialized Dentistry – Dental Public Health (PQF Level 8)
for the Dentistry Profession


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