

MCGDP PROSPECTUS 2023



Member of the College of General Dental Practitioners (MCGDP)

Course & Examination

COLLEGE OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS
OF SRI LANKA
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Please note that this prospectus may be subjected to change by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka. If so, you will be notified of such changes well in advance.

Contents

Introduction	4
Eligibility criteria for the MCGDP Course.....	4
Selection examination	5
Format of the selection examination	5
Theory paper.....	5
Viva voce examination	5
Duration of the Course	6
Format of the MCGDP Course.....	6
Learning objectives.....	6
Knowledge	6
Skills 7	
Attitudes	7
Teaching / learning methods	8
(i) Classroom sessions	8
(ii) Clinical training	8
Training in general dental practice	8
Training in hospital setting	9
(iii) Practicals	9
Institutions for practical training	9
(iv) Visits.....	9
(v) Distance education	10
(vi) Workshops.....	10
(vii) Assignments	10
(viii) Reference reading.....	11
(ix) Portfolio for assessment	11
Purpose of the portfolio	11
Components of the portfolio	11
Criteria for assessment of the portfolio	12
(x) Workplace-based assessment	12
Credit rating	13
Assessment	13
(i) Formative assessment	13

(ii) Summative assessment.....	14
Eligibility criteria to sit for the final examination.....	14
Timing of the examination.....	14
Format of the final MCGDP examination	14
Passing the examination.....	15
Appeals Board	15
Repeat MCGDP examination	15
Interpretation and amendments of regulations	15
Process of registration.....	16
Fee structure	16
Refund Policy.....	16
Job description of MCGDP Qualified General Dental Practitioners	17

Introduction

The College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka (CGDPSL) is the apex professional membership body in Sri Lanka which specifically addresses the standards of general dental practice. It aims to bring together general dental practitioners who are committed to improving the standards of dental care in their practice.

General dental practitioners work with the patients and the community to prevent, diagnose and treat dental and oral diseases. They lead the dental team and need to have the clinical skills and confidence to diagnose and treat oral disease, high level of manual dexterity to perform intricate surgical and dental procedures and commitment to provide public education on matters pertaining to oral hygiene. The Curriculum of the MCGDP Course was carefully designed to fulfill the above needs. Thus, the MCGDP Course gives an opportunity for general dental practitioners to obtain a postgraduate qualification which in turn will enable them to upgrade their knowledge and clinical skills to improve patient care.

The MCGDP Course is a two-year, part-time, postgraduate training programme in general dental practice designed for dental surgeons preparing for the MCGDP examination. The successful completion of the MCGDP examination is a mandatory requirement to obtain the Membership of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

Eligibility criteria for the MCGDP Course

The applicant should,

- (i) hold a Dental degree registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council under section 43 of the Medical Ordinance.
- (ii) have a minimum of four years' experience in General Dental Practice (GDP), which should be certified by the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

OR

Completed five years in the Department of Health/ University/ Defense Services certified by the relevant authority and a minimum of one-year full time experience in General Dental Practice certified by the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

The applicants should satisfy the criteria prescribed in paragraphs (i) and (ii) as at the date of closure of applications.

Selection examination

The content areas covered in the selection examination will be within the scope of a General Dental Practice.

Format of the selection examination

The examination consists of 2 components:

- (i) Theory paper
- (ii) viva voce examination.

Theory paper

The theory paper consists of 15 short answer questions (SAQs) – 90 minutes duration.

- **Part A:**
Oral Medicine (2); Oral Surgery (2); Oral Pathology (1) – total of 05 SAQs
- **Part B:**
Conservative Dentistry (2); Prosthodontics (1); Periodontics (2) – total of 05 SAQs
- **Part C:**
Orthodontics (2); Paedodontics (2); Community Dentistry (1) – total of 05 SAQs

Each part is marked independently by two examiners.

Viva voce examination

The viva voce examination of 15 minutes duration will be conducted by a panel of three examiners on the viva board. Subject areas covered will be based on the abovementioned subjects in Part A, B and C with independent marking by each examiner.

Requirements to pass the selection examination are as follows:

Allocation of marks:

- Theory paper – 75 marks
- Viva voce examination – 25 marks

A candidate should obtain an overall aggregate mark of 50% or more with 40% or more in each of the two components of the examination.

The results of the Selection Examination will be valid only for the MCGDP Course that immediately follows the said Selection Examination.

Duration of the Course

The MCGDP Course will be conducted over a period of two years. A trainee should complete the MCGDP Course during this period or over a further period of time as decided by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

Format of the MCGDP Course

The curriculum of the Course is organized in eleven sections on different themes, as given below.

Section 1 – Behavioral and social sciences and practice management

Section 2 – Community dentistry

Section 3 – Oral medicine

Section 4 – Oral pathology

Section 5 – Oral surgery

Section 6 – Orthodontics

Section 7 – Paedodontics

Section 8 – Periodontology

Section 9 – Prosthetic dentistry

Section 10 – Conservative dentistry

Section 11 – Oral radiology

Learning objectives

The learning experience of the MCGDP Course is designed to equip the trainee with the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies required to excel in the field of clinical general dental practice. The learning objectives of the MCGDP course are categorized into three key areas: knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

Knowledge

- (i) Nature of general dental practice
- (ii) Oral healthcare system in Sri Lanka
- (iii) Organization and management of a general dental practice
- (iv) Principles of patient management in dental practice
- (v) Therapeutic drugs used in primary oral care, their effects, side effects/adverse effects and interactions
- (vi) Clinical audit appropriate for dental practice

- (vii) Ethical aspects of dental practice
- (viii) Medico-legal aspects of dental practice
- (ix) National oral health programmes in Sri Lanka
- (x) Research methodology
- (xi) Clinical teaching in dental practice

Skills

- (i) To establish rapport, communicate effectively and maintain good doctor/patient relationship
- (ii) Provide comprehensive oral care with continuity
- (iii) Perform relevant clinical examinations competently
- (iv) Plan management together with patient and family
- (v) Prescribe drugs and investigate rationally, and manage cost effectively
- (vi) Recognize early indications of diseases and take appropriate action
- (vii) Act effectively in emergency situations and coordinate referral when necessary
- (viii) Recognize psycho/social factors that influence oral health and patient behavior
- (ix) Facilitate patient compliance
- (x) Consult other health professionals/refer for care, when necessary, in a professional manner
- (xi) Educate patients and the community on matters of oral health
- (xii) Practice oral health promotion and disease prevention
- (xiii) Maintain professional and ethical standards
- (xiv) Handle medico-legal issues with confidence and professionalism
- (xv) Self-directed in continued learning and professional development
- (xvi) Undertake practice-oriented research
- (xvii) Access dental information and review critically

Attitudes

- (i) Display a kind, caring and compassionate attitude towards the patient
- (ii) Give priority to patient care over self interest
- (iii) Show responsibility towards the patient under care, family and community
- (iv) Respect the autonomy, dignity and rights of patients and family

- (v) Demonstrate willingness and enthusiasm for teaching

Teaching / learning methods

The curriculum of the MCGDP Course will be delivered by appropriate teaching/learning methods. Each teaching session will usually include a single topic with all its relevant content, but depending on the content some topics may have to be spread over more than a single teaching session. A few of the topics may be combined when it is beneficial for the teaching/learning process and time will be allocated appropriately.

- (i) Classroom sessions
- (ii) Clinicals
- (iii) Practicals
- (iv) Visits
- (v) Distance education lessons
- (vi) Workshops
- (vii) Assignments
- (viii) Reference reading
- (ix) Portfolio for assessment
- (x) Workplace-based assessment

As an adjunct to teaching/learning methods used, handouts, guidelines and references for reading would be used at the discretion of the resources person/s.

Topics dealt with in the classroom situation will also be reinforced during clinical/practical teaching whenever there is an opportunity.

(i) Classroom sessions

These teaching sessions will take place on two Sundays of the month from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. The teaching/learning activities will be lecture discussion, symposium/ seminar or group work and discussion with facilitators.

(ii) Clinical training

Clinical training will take place during attachments to general dental practices and hospital wards/clinics and other dental care institutions approved by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

Training in general dental practice – 45 sessions

These will be done in at least nine approved general dental practices, but not more than five sessions in a single practice. The trainee would sit in with the trainer for a minimum of three hours per session.

Training in hospital setting

Training will be done in a continuum, on five working days of a week. The programme for training in the hospital setting is given in **Table 1**.

The units for clinical training mentioned in the table will be approved by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka, taking into consideration, the standard of the unit.

Table 1: Clinical training in hospital wards/ clinics and other dental institutions

Major Specialties	Duration	Other Specialties	Duration
Oral Surgery	3 weeks	Oral Medicine	1 week
Paedodontics	3 weeks	Community Dentistry	1 week
Restorative Dentistry	5 weeks	Oral Pathology	1 week
Orthodontics	3 weeks	Oral Radiology	1 week
		Accident & Emergency	1 week
		Forensic Medicine/Dentistry	1 week
		General Medicine	1 week
		General Surgery	1 week

(iii) Practicals

Practicals will take place with resource persons in appropriate laboratories or other institutions approved for the purpose by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka. The places for such training are listed below.

Institutions for practical training

1. Computer laboratory
2. Radiological / imaging investigation unit
3. Dental prosthetics laboratory

Learning objectives for the clinical and practical training are given in the clinical appointment record book which is handed over to trainees at the commencement of training. Attendance at clinicals and practicals must be certified by the trainer in the relevant section of the clinical appointment record book.

(iv) Visits

Visits to the following sites will have to be undertaken by the trainee during the MCGDP Course.

1. Government dental clinic in a rural setting
2. School dental clinic
3. Home for differently abled children
4. Home for the elderly
5. Counseling center

The Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka shall arrange the visits for the trainee. The trainee is requested to submit a written reflection of the learning experience which is to be annexed to the portfolio.

(v) *Distance education*

Distance education lessons in print format/CDs will be delivered to each trainee at regular intervals during the course. The tasks allocated in each lesson will be completed by the trainee and annexed to the portfolio.

(vi) *Workshops*

Some topics will be reinforced during workshops where trainees will work in small groups with facilitator/s and engage in sharing of knowledge through discussion and development of skills through which they will acquire competencies and appropriate attitudes that could be applied in actual dental practices. The workshop may involve role plays or group work and presentations which will give trainees hands-on experience in consulting skills, writing skills and presenting skills.

(vii) *Assignments*

A total of eight (8) assignments are given to assess whether trainees are able to apply what they have learnt to actual dental practice, do some reflective thinking about their day-to-day dental practice, and develop educational material for patients, involved in community and social work, management of common day to day problems and so on.

The assignments will be given three months after the commencement of the Course. A trainee will have a period of two months to complete and submit each assignment. Each trainee will be required to use all resources available for self-directed learning on the given subject, and to present their learning in a comprehensive essay varying between 500 to 1000 words. The assignments will be evaluated by a panel appointed by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka. After the feedback of comments from the panel, trainees obtaining D or E grades will be required to resubmit the assignment with recommended revisions. These papers have to be annexed to the portfolio of learning.

The assignments will be marked by the panel as follows:

A – Very good pass	(marks over 75%)
B – Good	(marks between 60% – 74%)
C – Pass	(marks between 50% – 59%)
D – Fail	(marks between 40% – 49%)
E – Bad fail	(marks below 40%)

(viii) Reference reading

Specific references relevant to a few topics will be recommended for reading. This is apart from the trainee's reference to the standard Texts on all the topics listed in the curriculum.

(ix) Portfolio for assessment

Purpose of the portfolio

It is a learning portfolio for the learner and an assessment portfolio for the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka, to ensure that the learner demonstrates that he/she has achieved the objectives listed in the curriculum, adequately corroborated with evidence annexed to the portfolio.

During the course, each trainee will maintain a portfolio for assessment where he or she will record all learning activities such as acquisition of knowledge, development of skills, clinical encounters in their own practice or in a training unit and reflections on how their learning relates to their clinical experiences and subsequent improvements in practice performance. The type written and bound portfolio should be submitted to the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka, on a given date prior to the MCGDP examination.

Components of the portfolio

1. Clinical and practical training in general dental practice, hospital unit, laboratory or other health care institution with evidence of clinical skills acquired and certified by the trainer.
2. Reflections on "visits"
3. Tasks in distance education lessons
4. Essays on assignments
5. Work based assessment forms
6. Reflections on ethical and general dental practice principles

The reflective element will be integrated into all of the above components while reflections on item number 6 is purely confined to two specific aspects in general dental practice. Any other learning activities such as attendance at Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes and participation in programmes to improve the oral health of the community could also be included in the portfolio.

Criteria for assessment of the portfolio

The portfolio will be assessed to determine whether the learner has undergone personal and professional development through reflective learning. In the assessment of the portfolio acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitude, understanding of a candidate's strong and weak points and how the candidate plans to correct weaknesses and re-enforce his or her strength while undergoing further professional development will be assessed.

The assessment will seek to ascertain the following:

Is the candidate,

- practicing or trying to practice the highest standard of excellence in practice.
- sensitive and keen in looking after the interests and welfare of the patients.
- ethical in regard to his professional conduct.
- responsive to oral health needs of the society.

(x) Workplace-based assessment

There will be a formative assessment at the point of delivery of dental care. This will be carried out in a training practice where the trainee's performance during a consultation with a real or simulated patient will be viewed by an assessor who will be a trainer appointed by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka. The assessor and the patient will fill up a feedback form on the trainee's performance and the trainee too will complete the self-assessment form. These forms will be posted by the assessor to the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka, for review. They will be returned to the trainees who will annex the forms to the portfolio to be a part of the portfolio assessment.

Detailed guidelines for assignments, assessment portfolio and work-based assessment will be made available to trainees at appropriate times during the Course.

Credit rating

The number of sessions of each teaching/ learning activity, total number of hours spent on each activity and the credit rating is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Credit rating of the MCGDP Course

Activity	Number of sessions	Number of hrs. per session	Total number of hrs. of activity	Number of hrs. needed for 1 credit	Total credits
Lectures	127	1	127	15	9
Symposia*	16	3	48	15	3
Group Discussion*	8	3	24	15	2
Clinicals (GDP)	45	3	135	20	7
Clinicals-ward (Major)	70	4	280	45	6
Clinicals-ward (Minor)	40	4	160	45	4
Practicals	10	4	40	30	1
Visits	5	4	20	20	1
Distance education (DE)	13	6	78	25	3
Assignments	8	6	48	25	2
Workshops*	7	4	28	15	2

*Workshops/ group discussion/ symposia are considered as lecture/discussion for credit rating

Assessment

(i) Formative assessment

A mentor (an experienced GDP teacher) will be assigned to each trainee. The assignments and portfolio will be reviewed by the mentor and feedback will be given to the trainee or mentee from time to time during the Course. After receiving the feedback from the mentor, any recommended revisions and improvements should be completed by the trainee before the portfolio is submitted to the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

The mentor will guide the trainee in their personal, professional and academic development as a General Dental Practitioner in Sri Lanka.

(ii) Summative assessment

Eligibility criteria to sit for the final examination

1. Satisfactory completion of all sections of the MCGDP Course, attending at least 80% of the classroom teaching, completing all the practicals, clinicals, visits and all the tasks of distance education lessons and submitting the essays on all the assignments given.
2. Submission of portfolio for assessment at the conclusion of the Course.
3. Submission of duly completed clinical appointment record book.
4. Payment of the Course fee and examination fee.

Timing of the examination

1. Advertisement for the examination will be posted within two weeks of completion of the Course.
2. The examination will be held six to eight weeks after completion of the Course.

Format of the final MCGDP examination

1. MCQ – 40 MCQs of which 30 will be true/false type while 10 MCQs will be single best response type. The duration of the paper will be 2 hours. (20% of the final marks).
2. SEQ – 4 questions. The duration of the paper will be 2 hours. (10% of the final marks).
3. OSCE/OSPE – Total stations 15; each of 10 minutes duration and will be marked out of 100. (50% of the final marks of which OSCE will be 25% and OSPE 25%).
 - 13 OSCE stations: Each station will simulate a consultation with real patients or role players. Marking will be on a structured rating form. Each OSCE station will be marked out of 100.
 - 02 OSPE stations: Each station will comprise of 03 OSPEs. At each of the 03 OSPEs, a candidate will face a practical task and be required to answer 3-4 relevant questions, spending 3 minutes for each. Marks will be indicated after each question. Each OSPE station will be marked out of 100.
4. Portfolio to include work-based assessment. Evaluation of the portfolio will be at a viva voce examination (20% of the final marks).

Table 3: Component, time allocation and marks given for the final MCGDP examination

Components	Number of questions	Time	Marks (%)
MCQ	40	2 hours	20%
SEQ	04	2 hours	10%
OSCE/ OSPE	15	2.5 hours	50%
Portfolio	-	-	20%

Passing the examination

To pass the examination, a candidate should score an aggregate of 50% or more while scoring a minimum of 50% in each of the Course components mentioned above.

Appeals Board

Appeals Board shall be set up for students to clarify any matters arising in relation to the portfolio and matters related to the examination.

Repeat MCGDP examination

If a candidate obtains the aggregate pass mark of 50% or more but fails due to not having obtained the minimum pass mark of 50% in one of the Course components he/she will be permitted to sit that component at a repeat examination held at a time decided by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

A candidate who has failed to obtain the aggregate mark of 50% or the minimum pass mark in more than one Course component will not be eligible to sit the repeat examination and will have to sit for the next scheduled examination.

Interpretation and amendments of regulations

In any matter pertaining to the interpretation of the above regulations, decision of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka will be final.

The College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka will have the right to make any amendments to the regulations with the approval of the Council of the College General Practitioners.

Process of registration

- (i) Download the MCGDP prospectus containing “Rules and Regulations” and the application form from www.cgdp.lk or receive by email request.
- (ii) Submit the completed application form along with a **non-refundable** processing fee of Rs. 5,000.00 to the office of the CGDP.
- (iii) The Subcommittee on Postgraduate Studies of the CGDP will assess the applications for eligibility and inform applicants of the outcome.
- (iv) Eligible applicants are required to sit the Selection Examination.
- (v) Candidates selected by examination are required to pay the Course fees for registration.
- (vi) An applicant registered for the Course will receive the MCGDP trainees and trainer’s handbook and the appointment handbook.

Fee structure

Table 3: Fee structure

Processing fee (non-refundable)	Rs. 5,000.00	
Course fee	1 st Year	Rs. 100,000.00
	2 nd Year	Rs. 100,000.00
	Total	Rs. 200,000.00
	A 10% discount will be offered if the Course fees are paid in full at registration.	
Examination fee	Rs. 50,000.00	

Please note that the fees may be subjected to change by the Council of the College of General Dental Practitioners of Sri Lanka if necessary.

Refund Policy

On reasonable grounds, a candidate who has paid the **full course fee** can apply for a 50% refund within the first 9 months of the course. The decision of the Council in this regard will be final.

Job description of MCGDP Qualified General Dental Practitioners

General dental practitioners will:

- I. Make an initial decision on every oral health problem presented to them as dental surgeons.
- II. Know when to intervene through treatment, prevention, counselling, and education in order to promote oral health of their patients.
- III. Undertake continuing management of their patients.
- IV. Practice in cooperation with colleagues and supporting staff.
- V. Recognize that they have a professional responsibility to the community.
- VI. Keep records relating to oral health of their patients and the treatment given to them.
- VII. Make discerning observations on the clinical and organizational aspect of their practice.
- VIII. Periodically evaluate their work and make changes in order to improve the quality of care.
- IX. Recognize the obligation to involve actively in continuing to learn throughout the professional lives.
- X. Engage themselves in research.