

# Students' Perceptions of Dental Anatomy Course at The University of Jordan

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## Abstract

**Purpose:** The aim of this study was to assess the students' perception of the Dental Anatomy practical module course teaching modalities to evaluate their usefulness and the need for future changes or improvement of the course with the goal of developing the course to meet the needs of the students.

**Methods:** Students' opinions were sought upon completion of the Tooth Morphology sessions using a questionnaire that probed into their views about different aspects of the course.

**Results:** The replies to the questionnaire suggest that students were generally satisfied with the course and instructors; they had positive attitudes towards the carving exercise though they had some comments about the quality of material used for tooth carving and the demonstration given in addition to the overall grading

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that new methods for teaching dental anatomy need to be implemented keeping, at the same time, the old techniques which are important for the development of manual skills. Innovative changes have already been introduced to the course that is hoped to help meet the students' learning needs.

**Keywords:** Tooth morphology, Dental anatomy, Education and carving.

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## Introduction

Dental anatomy is a science focusing on the study of the anatomical and morphological characteristics of human permanent and primary dentition along with their positions and relationships with each other and with the surrounding structures. It is therefore considered a foundational course in the pre-

clinical dental curriculum that is fundamental for establishing a solid dental background and the necessary knowledge to all aspects of dental practice<sup>(1,2)</sup>.

As the development of manual skills and the continuous improvement and acquisition of new motor dexterity skills are the basics for dental practice<sup>(3,4)</sup>, dental anatomy courses that

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