

Dental Hygiene Competency Statements Aligned to Program Goals and Objectives

I. Foundational Knowledge

1. Prepare Dental Hygiene graduates with the knowledge base and clinical competence necessary to provide dental hygiene care.
 - a. Graduates will pass all didactic courses
 - b. Graduates will pass all clinical/lab courses

The competencies for foundational knowledge and the activities listed to develop them link to our program goals of:

- To educate individuals who are capable of meeting the needs of society, dentistry, and dental hygiene now and in the future by providing an effective learning environment which promotes knowledge of current health promotion and prevention programs.
- To promote an appreciation of and sensitivity to the social, mental, intellectual, physical, and spiritual factors influencing the health and well-being of diverse populations by providing a strong theoretical base in the humanities, psychosocial sciences, basic sciences, and dental hygiene sciences.
- To provide students the opportunities to develop the reasoning, judgment, and leadership skills necessary to identify problems, develop solutions to problems, implement these solutions and evaluate effectiveness of these solutions.

The competencies for foundational knowledge and the activities listed to develop them link to our program objectives of:

- Provide opportunity for a broad liberal arts foundation.
- Demonstrate skills required to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene therapies and programs.
- Train hygienists to serve in roles designed to meet the needs of a variety of populations in a changing society.

II. Professionalism and Ethics

1. Adhere to the ADHA code of ethics
 - a. Students will sign the ADHA Code of Ethics
 - b. Students receive a daily professionalism grade in all clinical practice courses.
2. Provide care to all individuals without discrimination, using humane, empathetic treatment.
 - a. Patients will be surveyed to determine their perception of the care received in the dental hygiene clinic.
3. Advancement of the profession through affiliations with professional organizations and through community service activities.
 - a. Students will join the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association
 - b. Students will provide 20 hours of community service during their senior year.
 - c. Students will attend at least one local, state, or national professional meeting
4. Development of life-long learning skills.
 - a. Students will complete two writing intensive courses and two oral intensive courses.
 - b. Students will successfully complete the program of study.
 - c. Students will complete individual course research requirements.
5. Encourage interprofessional involvement with other disciplines
 - a. Students will participate in interprofessional activities.
 - b. Students will participate in ETSU Asynchronous IPE Program.

The competencies for professionalism and ethics and the activities listed to develop them link to our program goals of:

- To instill the commitment to contribute actively to the betterment of the profession through professional involvement and continued education.
- To develop a strong sense of community among students, staff, and faculty within the dental hygiene program.
- To prepare dental hygienists who possess the moral and ethical values/behaviors necessary for effective performance of responsibilities within dental hygiene, dentistry, and society.
*American Dental Hygienists' Association Code of Ethics
- To provide students with the skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional health team.

The competencies for professional and ethics and the activities listed to develop them link to our program objectives of:

- Prepare graduates to assume leadership roles within the profession.
- Participate responsibly in the professional association and uphold its purposes.
- Represent dental hygiene with high standards of personal conduct.
- Hold professional patient relationships in confidence.
- Maintain professional competence with a personal commitment to lifelong learning.
- Promote activities that foster interaction and relationships between students, staff, and faculty within the department, college, and university.
- Recognize and uphold the laws and regulations governing the profession.
- Prepare graduates for advanced professional or graduate education.
- Foster a team approach to the provision of dental hygiene care.

III. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

1. Provide community oral health education/dental hygiene services in a variety of settings.
 - a. Students will provide dental hygiene services at auxiliary sites.

- b. Students will develop a community and rural health assessment, implement the program, and evaluate the program upon completion.
 - c. Senior students will provide 20 hours of community service.
 - d. Students will provide oral health education to a variety of audiences.
 - e. Students will provide tobacco cessation information.
 - f. Students will present table clinics to dental hygiene professionals.
2. Students will assist patients in utilizing resources to enhance their oral hygiene self-care.
 - a. Students will pass an oral hygiene instruction evaluation in every clinical course.
 - b. Students will successfully complete the courses which provide foundational oral hygiene information.

The competencies for health promotion and disease prevention and the activities listed to develop them link to our program goals of:

- To educate individuals who are capable of meeting the needs of society, dentistry, and dental hygiene now and in the future by providing an effective learning environment which promotes knowledge of current health promotion and prevention programs.
- To promote an appreciation of and sensitivity to the social, mental, intellectual, physical, and spiritual factors influencing the health and well-being of diverse populations by providing a strong theoretical base in the humanities, psychosocial sciences, basic sciences, and dental hygiene sciences.
- To provide students the opportunities to develop the reasoning, judgment, and leadership skills necessary to identify problems, develop solutions to problems, implement these solutions and evaluate effectiveness of these solutions.

The competencies for health promotion and disease prevention and the activities listed to develop them link to our program objectives of:

- Demonstrate skills required to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene therapies and programs.
- Train hygienists to serve in roles designed to meet the needs of a variety of populations in a changing society.
- Foster interdisciplinary communication through clinical and service activities.
- Foster understanding of diversity through treatment of multicultural populations.
- Provide educational resources for the dental community.
- Develop educational programs to meet the needs of the general population of Northeast Tennessee.
- Offer dental services to underserved populations and the community at large.
- Utilize every opportunity to increase public understanding of oral health practices.

IV. Patient Care

1. Utilize appropriate infection control procedures on all patients in clinical settings.
 - a. Students will pass all infection control clinical competencies.
 - b. Students must successfully complete Occupational Safety class before proceeding in the program.
 - c. Students will apply proper infection control techniques in clinical settings.
2. Students will apply the dental hygiene process of care model: assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
 - a. Students will pass all courses that present information on the core knowledge of assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
 - b. Students will pass the daily treatment plan.
 - c. Students will pass the case study requirements.
 - d. Students will pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE).
 - e. Students will pass a clinical board exam.
 - f. Students will pass the instrumentation portion of pre-clinical and clinical courses.

- g. A quality assurance audit will be conducted on patient charts.
 - h. Alumni and employer surveys will be conducted.
 - i. Determination of graduate placement rates.
3. 100% of all students will treat a variety of patients according to age, medically compromised, and all types of periodontal disease.
- a. Students will meet the specific clinical requirements for graduation.

The competencies for patient care and the activities listed to develop them link to our program goals of:

- To provide students the opportunities to develop the reasoning, judgment, and leadership skills necessary to identify problems, develop solutions to problems, implement these solutions and evaluate effectiveness of these solutions.
- To provide students with experience in current technologies and the skills necessary to adapt to an increasingly complex and rapidly changing interdisciplinary health care system.

The competencies for patient care and the activities listed to develop them link to our program objectives of:

- Expand computer based teaching strategies to enhance experience with current information systems.
- Provide state of the art equipment for provision of dental hygiene therapy.
- Stay current in published research related to efficacy, and effectiveness of diagnostic tests, therapies, and prognoses used in dental hygiene therapy.
- Incorporate technology and scientific data to present rationale for the clinical practice of dental hygiene.
- Demonstrate skills required to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene therapies and programs.
- Foster understanding of diversity through treatment of multicultural populations.

- Foster interdisciplinary communication through clinical and service activities.