



## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

### COMPETENCIES FOR THE ENTRY-LEVEL DENTAL HYGIENIST

**Competence:** That level of skills, knowledge, and values required by new graduates to begin the practice of dental hygiene.

**CORE COMPETENCIES (C):** Reflect the ethics, values, skills, and knowledge integral to all aspects of dental hygiene practice.

The graduate will be able to:

- C.1 Ethics:** Discern and manage ethical issues of dental hygiene practice in a rapidly changing environment and apply a professional code of ethics in all endeavors.
  - 1.1** Apply principles of ethical behavior in decision-making, interactions with patients and staff, and personal conduct.
  - 1.2** Apply the ADHA Code of Ethics in the practice of dental hygiene.
- C.2 Jurisprudence:** Adhere to state and federal laws, recommendations, and regulation in the provision of oral health care.
  - 2.1** Apply the provisions of the Oklahoma State Dental Practice Act
- C.3 Critical Thinking:** Use critical thinking skills and comprehensive problem-solving to identify oral health care strategies that promote patient health and wellness
  - 3.1** Locate, critically evaluate, and integrate written and electronic sources of scientific information to improve the oral health of the patient.
- C.4 Evidence-based Decision-Making:** Use evidence-based decision making to evaluate emerging technology and treatment modalities to integrate into patient dental hygiene care plans to achieve high-quality, cost-effective care.
  - 4.1** Evaluate the safety and efficacy of new diagnostic and treatment modalities and make appropriate decisions regarding the use of new procedures on patients.
  - 4.2** Evaluate and select products for patient care based upon scientific evidence.

- C.5 Professional Responsibility:** Assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions and care based on accepted scientific theories research, and the accepted standard of care.
- 5.1** Provide quality dental hygiene services to the public based on current theory and research
- C.6 Self-Assessment:** Continuously perform self-assessment for life-long learning and professional growth.
- 6.1** Evaluate clinical, didactic, and practicum performance and identify factors that would result in an improved outcome.
- C.7 Theory Integration:** Integrate accepted scientific theories and research into educational, preventive, and therapeutic oral health services.
- C.8 Professionalism:** Promote the values of the dental hygiene profession through service-based activities, positive community affiliations, and active involvement in local organizations
- C.9 Quality Assurance:** Apply quality assurance mechanisms to insure continuous commitment to accepted standard of care.
- 9.1** Utilize appropriate standard precautions in preventing transmission of infectious diseases.
- 9.2** Understand the role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in regulating dental practices.
- 9.3** Implement and evaluate measures to minimize occupational hazards.
- 9.4** Expose radiographs based on patient need in compliance with current accepted professional guidelines.
- C.10 Communication:** Communicate effectively with diverse individuals and groups, serving all persons without discrimination by acknowledging and appreciating diversity.
- 10.1** Evaluate factors that can be used to promote patient adherence to disease prevention and encourage patients to assume responsibility for health and wellness.
- C.11 Documentation:** Record accurate, consistent, and complete documentation of oral health services provided.
- 11.1** Recognize the patient record as a legal document and maintain its accuracy and consistency prior to or during dental hygiene treatment.
- 11.2** Main confidentiality of patient health information by compliance with HIPAA regulations.
- C.12 Individualized Care:** initiate a collaborative approach with all patients when developing individualized care plans that are specialized, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and acceptable to all parties involved in care planning.

**C.13 Professional Collaboration:** Initiate consultations and collaborations with all relevant health care providers to facilitate optimal treatments.

**C.14 Medical Emergencies:** Manage medical emergencies by using professional judgment, providing life support, and utilizing required CPR and any specialized training or knowledge.

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION (HP): General knowledge of wellness, health determinants, and characteristics of various patient communities.**

The graduate will be able to:

- HP.1** Promote the values of oral and general health and wellness to the public and organizations inside and outside the profession.
- HP.2** Respect the goals, values, beliefs, and preferences of all patients.
- HP.3** Refer patients who may have physiological, psychological, or social problems for comprehensive evaluation.
- HP.4** Identify individual and population risk factors, and develop strategies that promote health-related quality of life.
- HP.5** Evaluate factors that can be used to promote patient adherence to disease prevention or health maintenance strategies.
- HP.6** Utilize methods that ensure the health and safety of the patient and the oral health professional in the delivery of care.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (CM): Local, state and national roles of dental hygiene graduates.**

The graduate will be able to:

- CM.1** Assess the oral health needs and services of the community to determine action plans and availability of resources to meet health care needs
- CM.2** Provide screening, referral, and educational services that allow patients to access The resources of the health care system.
- CM.3** Provide community oral health services in a variety of settings.
- CM.4** Facilitate patient access to oral health services by influencing individuals or organizations for the provision of oral health care.
- CM.5** Evaluate reimbursement mechanisms and their impact on patient access to oral health care.
- CM.6** Evaluate the outcomes of community-based programs, and plan for future activities.
- CM.7** Advocate for effective oral health care for underserved populations.

**PATIENT CARE (PC): A defined process of care in provision of patient care services and treatment modalities.**

The graduate will be able to:

**Assessment:**

- PC.1 Systematically collect, analyze and record diagnostic data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of a variety of patients using methods consistent with medico-legal principles.
- PC.2 Recognize predisposing and etiologic risk factors that require intervention to prevent disease.
- PC.3 Recognize the relationships among systemic disease, medications, and oral health that impact overall patient care and treatment outcomes.
- PC.4 Identify patients at risk for a medical emergency, and manage the patient care in a manner that prevents an emergency.

**Dental Hygiene Diagnosis:**

- PC.5 Use patient assessment data, diagnostic technologies, and critical decision making skills to determine a dental hygiene diagnosis, a component of the dental diagnosis, to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene care needs.

**Planning:**

- PC.6 Utilize reflective judgment in developing a comprehensive patient dental hygiene care plan.
- PC.7 Collaborate with the patient and other health professionals as indicated to formulate a comprehensive dental hygiene care plan that is patient-centered and based on the best scientific evidence and professional judgment.
- PC.8 Make referrals to professional colleagues and other health care professionals as indicated in the patient care plan.
- PC.9 Obtain the patient's informed consent based on a thorough case presentation

**Implementation:**

- PC.10 Provide specialized treatment that includes educational, preventive, and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health.
  - 10.1 Partner with the patient in achieving oral health goals.

**Evaluation:**

- PC.11 Evaluate the effectiveness of the provided services, and modify care plans as needed.
- PC.12 Determine the outcomes of dental hygiene interventions using indices, instrument, examination techniques, and patient self-reports as specified in patient goals.

**PC.13** Compare actual outcomes to expected outcomes, re-evaluating goals, diagnoses, and services when expected outcomes are not achieved

**13.1** Evaluate patient satisfaction with the oral health care received and the oral health status achieved.

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (PGD): Communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills required to positively influence the dental hygiene profession and increase patients' access to the oral health care system.**

The graduate will be able to:

**PGD.1** Pursue career opportunities within health care, industry, education, research, and other roles as they evolve for the dental hygienist.

**1.1** Describe the six roles of the dental hygienist as defined by the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

**PGD.2** Develop practice management and marketing strategies to be used in the delivery of oral health care.

**2.1** Implement and gauge the effectiveness of a re-care system.

**2.2** Develop skills to enhance teamwork and efficiency in the dental office.

**2.3** Effectively manage business aspects of dental hygiene practice.

**PGD.3** Access professional and social networks to pursue professional goals.

**3.1** Identify the importance of professional organizations through participation in student professional organization.

**3.2** Develop mechanisms for professional networking.

Adopted by Faculty June 16, 2014