DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Dental Hygiene (DDH) is to improve the health of Oklahomans and shape the future of dentistry by developing highly qualified dental hygienists through excellence in education, patient care, research, community service, faculty, and facilities.

GOAL #1: EDUCATION

Comprehensively prepare students, through appropriate academic and clinical education, to be qualified dental hygienists.

1.1 Recruit students of the highest quality who can reasonably be predicted to successfully complete the educational programs of the College within specified time frames.
1.2 Provide appropriate didactic and clinical instruction through an interactive, competency-based curriculum that is reviewed regularly and modified as necessary to address the dynamics of a constantly changing profession.
1.3 Provide didactic and clinical instruction in a positive learning environment that leads to social and ethical development along with technical competency and practice management skills.
1.4 Create opportunities for life-long learning.
1.5 Develop a curriculum that incorporates critical thinking skills and is evidence-based where possible.
1.6 Integrate biomedical and clinical sciences throughout the curriculum.

GOAL #2: PATIENT CARE

Provide appropriately supervised dental hygiene treatment of the highest quality.

2.1 Provide comprehensive patient-centered care throughout the clinical education programs as an integral component of the College's teaching and service missions.
2.2 Develop and implement a quality of care program based on measurable criteria that facilitate reliable and valid assessment.
2.3 Teach the necessity of professional ethics and responsibility in the delivery of patient care.
GOAL #3: RESEARCH and SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Create a positive and rewarding academic environment that facilitates research and scholarly activity by both students and faculty.

3.1 Provide opportunities for the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in oral health science and dental hygiene education through research programs involving faculty and students.
3.2 Provide faculty with sufficient time and resources to engage in productive research and other scholarly activities.
3.3 Create a culture in which achievements in research and scholarly activity by both faculty and students are recognized and rewarded.

GOAL #4: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Foster opportunities for involvement in service activities that are consistent with the dental hygienist’s responsibility to promote oral health care as an integral component of the overall health and welfare of the community.

4.1 Identify new and strengthen existing relationships between the College’s academic programs and the public.
4.2 Encourage student and faculty participation in and support of professional service organizations that promote the service mission of the College and the dental profession.

GOAL #5: FACULTY

Provide students with highly qualified faculty and provide faculty with an environment that facilitates personal and professional growth.

5.1 Recruit and retain highly qualified faculty with the requisite education, knowledge, clinical skills, and motivation to facilitate student advancement of the College's didactic and clinical goals.
5.2 Provide a total compensation package and an environment that are competitive with peer institutions.
5.3 Provide opportunities for faculty development.

GOAL #6: FACILITIES

Provide a state-of-the-art educational environment.

6.1 Incorporate relevant innovations in information technology and management as an integral facet of the College’s goals in the areas of teaching, patient care, research, and service.
6.2 Expose students to advanced dental technology and equipment to best prepare them for practice.
6.3 Initiate an ongoing program for facility maintenance and improvement.

Adopted by Faculty June 14, 2007