

## **Information for Dental Hygiene Students Regarding Substance Abuse**

Please read the following information carefully and seek guidance from the Chair of the Dental Hygiene Department or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs if you have questions or concerns.

The following questions are asked by the State Board of Dentistry of all applicants for licensure to practice dental hygiene in Oklahoma:

- Have you ever been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense, even if the result was a deferred sentence?
- Do you habitually use a habit-forming drug or chemical substance, including alcohol?

If your answer is yes to either of these questions, you are likely to encounter difficulty in applying to sit for the dental hygiene licensing examination in Oklahoma and many other states. Applicants having any of these issues in their backgrounds may be required to provide a letter of explanation and/or obtain a substance abuse assessment from a counselor. Additionally a student or graduate could be denied dental hygiene licensure.

The College of Dentistry is responsible for providing students with the appropriate knowledge and competency to practice as dental hygienists. The College of Dentistry is not responsible, however, for assuring that a graduate will be allowed to register through Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry to obtain a license. If you have concerns over these issues, it would be prudent to seek additional information as early as possible. It is our desire to provide you with advice and guidance on these very serious issues which may preclude your ability to obtain licensure to practice dental hygiene.