

Dental Hygiene Program Competencies 2019

For a student to graduate from this program, they must demonstrate evidence of entry-level competence in the following areas.

1. Patient Assessment
2. Dental Hygiene Diagnosis
3. Dental Hygiene Treatment Planning
4. Implementation of Dental Hygiene Care Plan
5. Evaluation of the Outcomes of Dental Hygiene Care
6. Documentation of Patient Care
7. Professionalism, Ethics and Cultural Awareness.

Competence is determined by the completion of the didactic, laboratory and clinical components of each competency at specified levels of accomplishment. The level of accomplishment for each competency is based on evaluation outcomes expressed as percentages. All didactic outcomes must be at least 75%. Laboratory and clinical assessments are made using skill evaluations, process evaluations, and procedure evaluations (NOTE: procedure evaluations evaluate both process and product components). PLEASE reference the *Clinical Evaluation Criteria for Clinical Grade Sheet/Patient Services/Product Evaluation* Document for DHYG 121-Clinic I, DHYG 221-Clinic II, and DHYG 222-Clinic III accompanying this information. Pre-clinical Laboratory- DHYG 101 criterion is provided within this text.

The competencies listed are based on the 2016 *Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice* from the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

I. Patient Assessment

A. Patient History

1. Patient History is defined as:
 - a) Record personal profile information such as demographics, values and beliefs, cultural influences, knowledge, skills and attitudes.
 - b) Record current and past dental and dental hygiene oral health practices.
 - c) Collection of health history data includes the patient's:
 - i) current and past health status
 - ii) diversity and cultural considerations (e.g. age, gender, religion, race and ethnicity)
 - iii) pharmacologic considerations (e.g. prescription, recreational, over the counter (OTC), herbal)
 - iv) additional considerations (e.g. mental health, learning disabilities, phobias, economic status)
 - v) take vital signs and compare with previous status
 - vi) consultation with appropriate healthcare provider(s) as indicated.
2. Patient History is presented and evaluated within the curriculum as follows:
 - a) Didactic
 - i) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - ii) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - iii) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - iv) DHYG 161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - v) DHYG 201 Pharmacology and Pain Control
 - vi) DHYG 211 Dental Hygiene Seminar

- vii) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - viii) DHYG 242 Principles of Dental Hygiene III
 - ix) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 - b) Laboratory
 - i) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - (1) Blood Pressure Measurement skill evaluation: a minimum grade of 75% is required.
 - (2) Medical Check-in process evaluation.
 - c) Clinical DHYG 121, DHYG 221, and DHYG 222 (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - i) Medical Check-in process evaluation
 - ii) Medical/Dental History procedure evaluations
- B. Perform a comprehensive clinical evaluation
1. A comprehensive clinical evaluation includes:
 - a) A thorough examination of the head and neck and oral cavity including an oral cancer screening, evaluation of trauma and a temporomandibular joint (TMJ) assessment.
 - b) Evaluation for further diagnostics including radiographs.
 - c) A comprehensive periodontal evaluation that includes the documentation of:
 - i) Full mouth periodontal charting:
 - ii) Probing depths
 - iii) Bleeding points
 - iv) Suppuration
 - v) Mucogingival relationships/defects
 - vi) Recession
 - vii) Attachment level/attachment loss
 - viii) Presence, degree and distribution of plaque and calculus
 - ix) Gingival health/disease
 - x) Bone height/bone loss
 - xi) Mobility and fremitus
 - xii) Presence, location and extent of furcation involvement
 - d) A comprehensive hard tissue evaluation that includes the charting of conditions and oral habits.
 - i) demineralization
 - ii) caries
 - iii) defects
 - iv) sealants
 - v) existing restorations and potential needs
 - vi) anomalies
 - vii) occlusion
 - viii) fixed and removable prostheses
 - ix) missing teeth
 2. A comprehensive clinical evaluation is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
 - a) Didactic
 - i) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - ii) DHYG 111 Dental Science I
 - iii) DHYG 112 Dental Science II
 - iv) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography

- v) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - vi) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - vii) DHYG 171 Dental Materials
 - viii) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - ix) DHYG 251 Periodontology
- b) Laboratory
- i) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene – a minimum grade of 75% is required.
 - (1) Principles of positioning skill evaluation
 - (2) Instrument Grasp skill evaluation
 - (3) Mirror and Finger Rests in Anterior Sextants skill evaluation
 - (4) Mirror and Finger Rests in Mandibular Posterior Sextants skill evaluation
 - (5) Mirror and Finger Rests in Maxillary Posterior Sextants
 - (a) Skill evaluation
 - (6) Calibrated Periodontal Probe and Basic Probing techniques skill evaluation
 - (7) 11/12 Explorer skill evaluation
 - (8) #5 Caries explorer skill evaluation
 - (9) Mucogingival involvement skill evaluation
 - ii) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography
 - (1) A minimum of 84% passing rate must be achieved on each of the following process evaluations.
 - (2) Infection control
 - (3) Patient/Operator Safety
 - (4) Film Duplication
 - (5) Manual Processing
 - (6) Automatic Processor
 - (7) Quality Control
 - (8) Film Mounting
 - (9) Panoramic Radiograph
 - (10) Digital Radiograph
 - (11) Bitewing Technique
 - (12) Paralleling Technique
 - (13) Bisecting Technique
 - (14) Occlusal Exposure
 - (15) NOMAD Pro 2
- c) Clinical
- i) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, and DHYG 222 (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - (1) Extraoral/Intraoral Examination procedure evaluations
 - (2) Dental Charting procedure evaluations:
 - (3) Periodontal Evaluation procedure evaluations:
 - (4) Aseptic technique:
 - (5) Patient/Clinic Records procedure evaluations:
 - (6) Patient/Operator Positioning procedure evaluations:
 - (7) Mucogingival Involvement procedure evaluations:

- (8) Radiography procedure evaluations:
- (9) Professionalism procedure evaluations:
- (10) Patient/Time Management procedure evaluations:

C. Risk Assessment

1. The following factors must be evaluated to determine the levels of risk for each patient.
 - a) Fluoride exposure
 - b) Tobacco exposure including smoking, smokeless/spit tobacco and second-hand smoke, and Vaping.
 - c) Nutrition history and dietary practices
 - d) Systemic diseases/conditions (e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune, etc.)
 - e) Prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and complementary therapies and practices (e.g. herbal, vitamin and other supplements, daily aspirin)
 - f) Salivary function and xerostomia
 - g) Age and gender
 - h) Genetics and family history
 - i) Habitual and lifestyle behaviors
 - i) Substance abuse (recreational drugs, alcohol)
 - ii) Eating disorders
 - iii) Piercing and body modification
 - iv) Oral habits (citrus, toothpicks, lip/cheek biting)
 - v) Sports and recreation
 - j) Physical disability
 - k) Psychological and social considerations
 - i) Domestic violence
 - ii) Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
 - iii) Behavioral
 - iv) Psychiatric
 - v) Special needs
 - vi) Literacy
 - vii) Economic
 - viii) Stress
 - ix) Cultural influences
2. Risk Assessment is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
 - a) Didactic
 - i) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - ii) DHYG 111 Dental Science I
 - iii) DHYG 112 Dental Science II
 - iv) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - v) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - vi) DHYG 161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - vii) DHYG 201 Pharmacology and Pain Control
 - viii) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - ix) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 - b) Laboratory
 - i) DHYG 101 Pre-Clinical
 - (1) Medical/Dental History
 - (2) Extraoral/Intraoral evaluation

- (3) Treatment planning
- c) Clinical
 - i) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, and DHYG 222 (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - (1) Medical/Dental History procedure evaluations
 - (2) Extraoral/Intraoral Examination procedure evaluations
 - (3) Treatment Planning procedure evaluations
 - (4) Nutritional/Caries Control Counseling procedure evaluations

II. Dental Hygiene Diagnosis

- A. Dental Hygiene Diagnosis consists of the following factors
 - 1. Analyze and interpret information from multiple sources to evaluate clinical findings and formulate the dental hygiene diagnosis.
 - 2. Determine patient needs that can be improved through the delivery of dental hygiene care.
 - 3. Incorporate the dental hygiene diagnosis into the overall dental treatment plan.
- B. Dental Hygiene Diagnosis is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
 - 1. Didactic
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - b) DHYG 111 Dental Science I
 - c) DHYG 112 Dental Science II
 - d) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography
 - e) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - f) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - g) DHYG161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - h) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - i) DHYG 242 Principles of Dental Hygiene III
 - j) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 - 2. Laboratory
 - a) DHYG 101
 - i) Dental Charting
 - ii) Gingival Findings
 - iii) Periodontal charting and clinical attachment assessment
 - iv) Calculus charting
 - v) Treatment Planning
 - 3. Clinical
 - a) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, DHYG 22 (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - i) Dental Charting procedure evaluation
 - ii) Patient Education/Plaque Control procedure evaluation
 - iii) Nutritional /Caries Control Counseling
 - iv) Radiographic Interpretation evaluations
 - v) Treatment Planning procedure evaluations

III. Implementation

- A. Implementation of the dental hygiene care plan includes the following factors:
 - 1. Review and implement the dental hygiene care plan with the patient.
 - a) Expose, process, and interpret dental radiographs
 - b) Remove plaque and calculus – soft and hard deposits – from teeth

- c) coronal and apical to the gingival margin using dental instruments
 - c) Apply caries-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth
 - d) Administer local controlled and sustained-release microbial agents
 - e) Administer topical anesthetics
 - f) Apply desensitizing agents
 - g) Make impressions and pour study models
 - h) Educate patients on plaque control and oral hygiene techniques, and develop individualized self-care oral hygiene programs to maintain healthy teeth and gums
 - i) Counsel and coordinate tobacco cessation programs
 - j) Counsel patients on the importance of good nutrition for maintaining optimal oral health
 - k) Modify the plan as necessary and obtain consent
 - l) Communicate with patients appropriate for age, language, culture, and learning style
 - m) Confirm the plan for continuing care
- B. Implementation of the dental hygiene care plan is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
1. Didactic
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - b) DHYG 111 Dental Science I
 - c) DHYG 112 Dental Science II
 - d) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography
 - e) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - f) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - g) DHYG 161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - i) Nutritional/Caries Control process evaluation: a minimum grade of 75% is required
 - h) DHYG 171 Dental Materials
 - i) DHYG 201 Pharmacology and Pain Control
 - j) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - k) DHYG 242 Principles of Dental Hygiene III
 - l) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 2. Laboratory – Required minimum passing grade of 75%
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene:
 - i) Sickle Scalers process skill evaluation
 - ii) Universal Curets skill evaluation
 - iii) Area Specific Curets skill evaluation
 - iv) Instrument Sharpening skill evaluation
 - b) DHYG 171 Dental Materials
 - i) Pit and Fissure Placement skill evaluation
 - ii) Alginate Impression skill evaluation
 - iii) Amalgam Polishing skill evaluation
 - c) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography – a minimum 84% passing rate is required.
 - i) Infection Control
 - ii) Patient/Operator Safety
 - iii) Full Mouth Series: One FMX must be completed on DXTTR Jr, one FMX must be completed on Student Partner, and one

FMX must be completed using the NOMAD Pro 2.

- (1) Full Mouth Series/paralleling technique/film with horizontal bitewings
 - (2) Full Mouth Series/paralleling technique/digital with vertical bitewings
 - (3) Full Mouth Series/bisecting technique/film with horizontal bitewings
 - (4) Full Mouth Series/bisecting technique/digital with vertical bitewings
 - iv) Panoramic Radiographic survey on adult student partner
 - v) Panoramic Radiographic survey on Pedodontic patient.
 - vi) Panoramic Bitewing survey on DXXTR
 - vii) Panoramic Bitewing survey on Pedodontic patient.
 - viii) Occlusal survey (maxillary and mandibular)
 - ix) 1 Set (Seven) Vertical Bitewings film/digital
 - x) 1 Set (Five) Maxillary anterior periapical series/digital
 - d) DHYG 210 Pharmacology and Pain Control – a minimum 75% passing rate is required.
 - i) Inferior alveolar block
 - ii) Posterior superior alveolar
 - iii) Middle superior alveolar
 - iv) Anterior superior alveolar
 - v) Nasopalatine
 - vi) Greater palatine
 - vii) Long buccal
 - viii) Mental block
 - ix) Lingual block
 - x) Supraperiosteal injection
 - xi) Nitrous oxide administration
3. Clinical
- a) DHYG 121, DHYG 221 and DHYG 222 (For Process or Skill Evaluations: a minimum grade of 75% is required.)
 - i) Sickle Scalers skill evaluation
 - ii) Universal Curets skill evaluation
 - iii) Area Specific Curets skill evaluation
 - iv) Instrument Sharpening skill evaluation
 - v) Ultrasonic and Sonic Instrumentation process evaluation
 - vi) Cosmetic Polishing Procedures process evaluations (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - vii) Scaling and Root Planing procedure evaluations
 - viii) Polishing procedure evaluations
 - ix) Fluoride procedure evaluations
 - x) Aseptic Technique procedure evaluations
 - xi) Professionalism procedure evaluations
 - xii) Patient/Time Management procedure evaluations
 - xiii) Patient/Operator Positioning procedure evaluations
 - xiv) Patient Education/Plaque Control procedure evaluations
 - xv) Nutritional/Caries Counseling
 - xvi) Radiology procedure evaluation – DHYG 221 and DHYG 222 (CLINICS II and III only)

- xvii) Impressions/Study Models procedure evaluations
- xviii) Pit and Fissure Sealant procedure evaluations
- xix) Ultrasonic/Sonic Scaling process evaluations
- xx) Desensitization procedure evaluations – DHYG 222 (Clinic III only)
- xxi) Administration of Local Anesthesia – (optional – no requirement)
- xxii) Administration of Nitrous Oxide – (optional – no requirement)

IV. Evaluation

- A. The following processes must be evaluated throughout the process of care.
 - 1. Use measurable assessment criteria to evaluate the outcomes of dental hygiene care (e.g. probing, plaque control, bleeding points, etc.).
 - 2. Communication with the patient, dentist, and other health/dental care providers the outcomes of dental hygiene care.
 - 3. Collaborate to determine the need for additional diagnostics, treatment, referral, education, and continuing care based on treatment outcomes and self-care behaviors.
- B. The evaluation process is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
 - 1. Didactic
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - b) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography
 - c) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - d) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - e) DHYG 161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - f) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - g) DHYG 242 Principles of Dental Hygiene III
 - h) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 - 2. Clinical
 - a) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, DHYG 222 (refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - i) Patient Communication
 - ii) Extraoral/Intraoral Examination procedure evaluations
 - iii) Dental Charting procedure evaluations
 - iv) Periodontal Evaluation procedure evaluations
 - v) Mucogingival Involvement procedure evaluations
 - vi) Patient Education/Plaque Control procedure evaluations
 - vii) Nutritional/Caries Control procedure evaluations

V. Documentation

- A. The following factors must be evaluated to ensure proper documentation of patients' experiences and other relevant information.
 - 1. Documents all components of the dental hygiene process of care (assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation).
 - 2. Objectively records all information and interactions between the patient and the practice (i.e. phone calls, emergencies, prescriptions).
 - 3. Records legible, concise and accurate information (i.e. dates and signatures, clinical information that subsequent providers can understand, ensure all components of the patient record are actually labeled).
 - 4. Recognizes ethical and legal responsibilities of recordkeeping, including guidelines outlined in state regulations and statutes.

5. Ensures compliance with the federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
 6. Respects and protects the confidentiality of patient information.
 7. Documents on hard copy-paper and on electronic health records – digital
- B. Proper documentation is presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
1. Didactic
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - b) DHYG 132 Dental Radiography
 - c) DHYG 133 General and Oral Pathology
 - d) DHYG 141 Principles of Dental Hygiene I
 - e) DHYG 161 Biochemistry and Nutrition
 - f) DHYG 240 Principles of Dental Hygiene II
 - g) DHYG 242 Principles of Dental Hygiene III
 - h) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 2. Clinical
 - a) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, DHYG 222 (Refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 - i) Patient/Clinic Records procedure evaluations
 - ii) Dental software/digital computer patient records

VI. Professionalism , Ethics and Cultural Awareness

- A. The following factors are evaluated to ensure that graduates understand their professional and ethical responsibilities.
1. Understand and adhere to the ADHA Code of Ethics.
 2. Maintain a current license to practice, including certifications as appropriate.
 3. Demonstrate respect for the knowledge, expertise and contributions of dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental office staff, and other health care professionals.
 4. Articulate the roles and responsibilities of the dental hygienist to the patient, interdisciplinary team members, referring providers, and others.
 5. Apply problem-solving processes in decision-making and evaluate these processes.
 6. Demonstrate a professional image and demeanor.
 7. Recognize diversity. Incorporate cultural and religious sensitivity in all professional interactions.
 8. Access and utilize current, valid and reliable evidence in clinical decision-making through analyzing and interpreting the literature and other resources.
 9. Maintain awareness of changing trends in dental hygiene, health and society that impact dental care.
 10. Support the dental hygiene profession through ADHA membership.
 11. Interact with peers and colleagues to create an environment that supports collegiality and teamwork.
 12. Take actions in situations where patient safety and well-being is potentially or actually compromised.
 13. Contribute to a safe, supportive and professional work environment.
 14. Participate in activities to enhance and maintain continued competence, address professional issues as determined by appropriate self-assessment.
 15. Commit to lifelong learning to maintain competence in an evolving health care system.

- B. Professionalism, ethics and cultural awareness are presented and evaluated in the curriculum as follows:
1. Didactic
 - a) DHYG 101 Preclinical Dental Hygiene
 - b) DHYG 201 Pharmacology
 - c) DHYG 211 Dental Hygiene Seminar
 - d) DHYG 251 Periodontology
 2. Clinical
 - a) DHYG 121, DHYG 221, and DHYG 222 (refer to Clinical Evaluation Criteria Document)
 3. Laboratory
 - a) DHYG 101
 - i) Professionalism Evaluation
 - ii) Medical Check-In