

## Dental Hygiene Program Competencies with Corresponding Courses and Evaluation Methods

1. **Professionalism:** The dental hygienist must be able to discern and manage ethical issues and problems in dental practice, exercise critical thinking and sound clinical judgment and communicate with other professionals. This competency includes the ability to:

Competency	Corresponding Course DHYG:	Evaluation Method
a. Apply a professional code of ethics in all endeavors.	101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 120, 121, 208, 204, 228, 109, 201, 203, 222, 224, 230, 235, 234	DHYG 101 – Ethics paper, DHYG 230 – Ethics presentation, Professionalism component of daily clinic evaluation. Student competency self-evaluation
b. Adhere to state and federal laws, recommendations and regulations in the provision of dental hygiene care.	101, 102, 103, 113, 114, 120, 121, 208, 204, 228, 109, 201, 203, 222, 224, 230, 235, 234	DHYG 230 Jurisprudence exam, results of state jurisprudence exam, student competency self-evaluation.
c. Provide dental hygiene care to promote patient/client health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidenced-based practice.	101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 120, 208, 204, 228, 109, 203, 224, 234	Dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan (grade is part of clinical assessment form), DHYG 234 periodontal presentation competency, student competency self-evaluation.
d. Assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions and care based on accepted scientific theories and research well as the accepted standard of care.	101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 120, 121, 208, 204, 228, 109, 203, 224, 234,	Dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan (grade is part of the clinical assessment form), DHYG 234 periodontal presentation , student competency self-evaluation.

<p>e. Continuously perform self-assessment for life-long learning and professional growth.</p>	<p>102, 103, 113, 114, 204, 228, 201, 203, 224, 230, 234</p>	<p>Self-assessment of radiographs, DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 – self-assessment of effectiveness of treatment provided to patient, dietary analysis competency, DHYG 224 and 234 journal entries, periodontal office observation form, DHYG 203 self-assessment, self-assessment portion of clinical assistant form, periodontal patient re-evaluation competency, DHYG 230 professional paper, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>f. Advance the profession through service activities and affiliations with professional organizations.</p>	<p>101, 230, 235</p>	<p>Graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation, service learning activities, membership in professional association and student research presentation.</p>
<p>g. Provide quality assurance mechanisms for health services.</p>	<p>103, 113, 114, 204, 228, 203, 224, 234</p>	<p>DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 chart audits, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>h. Communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations both in writing and verbally.</p>	<p>101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 120, 121, 204, 228, 201, 203, 222, 224, 230, 235, 234</p>	<p>Electronic chart entries (errors impact professional grade on daily grade sheet), papers and presentations completed as part of DHYG 114, 208, 109, 201, 224, 234 and 230, patient education competency, dietary analysis competency, treatment planning competency, auxiliary aids competency, tobacco cessation competency, community presentations completed as part of DHGY 235, student competency self-evaluation.</p>

i. Provide accurate, consistent and complete documentation of assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene services.	103, 105, 113, 114, 208, 228, 109, 224, 234	Daily clinical performance, chart audits, patient tissue evaluations, self evaluations of radiographic images.
j. Provide care to all patients using an individualized approach that is humane, empathetic, and caring.	103, 105, 113, 114, 208, 228, 109, 224, 234	Professional component of daily clinical evaluation form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, patient education competency, treatment planning for a patient with special needs competency, student competency self-evaluation.
k. Pursue continuing education courses and/or higher education that demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.	103, 113, 114, 228, 224, 234	Graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation.

**2. Patient Care:** The dental hygienist must possess a thorough foundation in the biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences and be able to apply those principles in assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene treatment.

**2.1 Assessment:**

The dental hygienist will be able to perform an examination that collects biological, psychological, and social information needed to evaluate the medical and oral conditions for patients of all ages. This includes the ability to recognize and manage behavioral factors which affect oral health and to use that information to implement strategies that facilitate the provision of oral health care. This competency includes the ability to:

Competency	Corresponding Course DHYG:	Evaluation Method
a. Select, obtain, and interpret diagnostic information, recognizing its advantages and limitations.	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 113, 114, 120, 121, 122, 208, 228, 109, 222, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 228 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs treatment planning competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric patient competencies, radiographic interpretation competencies, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Recognize predisposing and etiologic risk factors that require intervention to prevent disease.	101, 102, 105, 114, 122, 208, 228, 109, 222, 224, 234	Dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan/dental hygiene diagnosis, treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation.
c. Obtain, review, and update a complete medical, family, social, and dental history.	101, 102, 114, 120, 121, 204, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, student competency self-evaluation.

<p>d. Perform a comprehensive examination using clinical, radiographic, periodontal, dental charting, and other data collection procedures to assess the patient's needs.</p>	<p>101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 113, 114, 120, 121, 122, 208, 204, 228, 109, 203, 222, 224, 234</p>	<p>DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, treatment planning competency, special needs treatment planning competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric patient competencies, dental charting competency, radiographic interpretation competency, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>e. Recognize health conditions and medications that impact overall patient care.</p>	<p>101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 121, 208, 228, 109, 224, 234</p>	<p>DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>f. Identify patients at risk for a medical emergency and manage the patient in a manner that prevents an emergency.</p>	<p>114, 121, 228, 224, 234</p>	<p>DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, DHYG 121 medical emergencies scenarios, student competency self-evaluation.</p>

## 2.2 Diagnosis:

The dental hygienist must use critical decision making skills to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene needs based on all available data. This competency includes the ability to:

Competency	Corresponding Course DHYG:	Evaluation Methods
a. Use assessment findings, etiologic factors and clinical data in determining a dental hygiene diagnosis.	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 113, 114, 122, 208, 228, 109, 222, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, intra/extra oral exam competency, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs treatment planning competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Identify patient needs and significant findings that impact the delivery of dental hygiene services.	101, 102, 114, 114, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs treatment planning competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning competency, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, student competency self-evaluation.
c. Obtain the proper consultations as indicated.	103, 105, 113, 114, 120, 121, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, student competency self-evaluation.

### 2.3 Planning:

The dental hygienist will be able to collaborate with the patient or other health professionals, to formulate a comprehensive dental hygiene care plan that is patient centered and based on current scientific evidence. This competency includes the ability to:

Competency	Corresponding Course DHYG:	Evaluation Methods
a. Establish a planned sequence of care (educational, clinical and evaluation) based on the dental hygiene diagnosis; identified oral conditions; potential problems; etiologic and risk factors; and available treatment modalities.	103, 105, 113, 114, 208, 204, 228, 109, 203, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning, periodontal presentation competency, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Prioritize the care plan based on the health status and actual and potential problems of the individual to facilitate optimal health.	114, 204, 228, 203, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning, periodontal presentation competency, student competency self-evaluation.
c. Establish a collaborative relationship with the patient in the planned care to include the etiology, prognosis, and treatment alternatives.	105, 114, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, special needs competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning, periodontal presentation competency, student competency self-evaluation.

d. Make referrals to other health care professionals.	103, 105, 113, 114, 121, 208, 228, 109, 224, 234	Medical history competency, blood pressure competency, DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, student competency self-evaluation, completion of patient referral form.
e. Obtain the patient's informed consent.	103, 105, 113, 114, 204, 228, 224, 234	Dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation, obtaining patient's signature.

#### 2.4 Implementation:

The dental hygienist will be able to provide specialized treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health. This competency includes the ability to:

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Corresponding Course DHYG:</b>	<b>Evaluation Methods</b>
a. Perform dental hygiene interventions to eliminate and/or control local etiologic factors to prevent and control caries, periodontal disease, and other oral conditions.	105, 114, 228, 224, 234	Periodontal debridement portion of daily clinical evaluation form, periodontal debridement competencies, polishing competency, power scaler competency, air-polishing competency, fluoride application competencies (tray and varnish), cleaning a removable prosthesis competency, student competency self-evaluation.

b. Control pain and anxiety during treatment through the use of accepted clinical and behavioral technique.	114, 120, 204, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 204 injection check-offs, student competency self-evaluatiou.
c. Provide life support measures to manage medical emergencies in the patient/client care environment.	114, 121, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 121 medical emergency scenarios, CPR certification, student competency self-evaluation.

**2.5 Evaluation:**

The dental hygienist will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the employed clinical and educational services and modify as considered necessary. This competency includes the ability to:

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Corresponding Course DHYG:</b>	<b>Evaluation Methods</b>
a. Evaluate the effectiveness of the patient’s self-care and the dental hygiene treatment in attaining or maintaining oral health.	105, 114, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, re-evaluation of periodontal patient competency, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Develop a maintenance program that meets the patient’s needs.	105, 114, 208, 228, 109, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency (including rationale for recare), pediatric, adolescent and geriatric treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation.

c. Evaluate the patient's satisfaction with the oral health care received and the oral health status achieved.	105, 114, 228, 224, 234	Dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, patient satisfaction survey, student competency self-evaluation.
d. Provide referrals for subsequent treatment based on the evaluation findings.	105, 114, 228, 203, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation.

**3. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention:** The dental hygienist must be competent in the performance and delivery of oral health promotion and disease prevention services public health, private practice and alternative settings. This competency includes the ability to:

Competency	Corresponding Course DHYG:	Evaluation Methods
a. Promote preventive health behaviors by personally striving to maintain oral and general health.	101, 102, 105, 114, 228, 201, 222, 224, 235, 234	Professional component of daily grade sheet, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Respect the goals, values, beliefs, and preferences of the patient while promoting optimal oral and general health.	105, 114, 120, 208, 204, 228, 109, 201, 222, 224, 235, 234	Patient education (professionalism component of daily grade sheet), patient education competency, smoking cessation competency, student competency self-evaluation., dietary counseling competency
c. Refer patients who may have a physiologic, psychological and/or social problem for comprehensive patient evaluation.	114, 120, 228, 224, 234	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient assessment form, medical history competency, blood pressure competency, student competency self-evaluation, completion of patient referral form.
d. Identify individual and population	114, 228, 224, 234, 109, 235	DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 patient

<p>risk factors and develop strategies that promote health-related quality of life.</p>		<p>assessment form, patient education competency, nutritional analysis competency, smoking cessation competency, dental hygiene care plan/treatment plan, treatment planning competency, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>e. Evaluate factors that can be used to promote patient adherence to disease prevention and/or health maintenance strategies.</p>	<p>105, 114, 204, 228, 224, 234</p>	<p>Patient education (professionalism component of daily grade sheet), patient education competency, auxiliary aids competency, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>f. Evaluate and utilize methods to ensure the health and safety of the patient and the dental hygienist in the delivery of dental hygiene.</p>	<p>101, 102, 103, 113, 114, 228, 203, 224, 234</p>	<p>Disinfection skills assessment, use of sterilization equipment skills assessment, infection control measures (professional component of DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 daily grade sheet), radiation safety procedures, student competency self-evaluation.</p>
<p>g. Provide educational methods using appropriate communication skills and educational strategies to promote optimal health.</p>	<p>105, 114, 228, 201, 224, 235, 234</p>	<p>DHYG 114, 228, 224 and 234 daily grade sheet (patient education as part of professional), patient education competency, auxiliary aids competency, DHYG 235 community presentations and projects, student competency self-evaluation.</p>

**4. Community Involvement:** Dental hygienists must appreciate their role as health professionals at the local, state, and national levels. The dental hygienist must assess, plan, and implement programs and activities to benefit the general population. The dental hygienist must also be prepared to influence others to facilitate access to care and services. This competency includes the ability to:

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Corresponding Course DHYG:</b>	<b>Evaluation Methods</b>
a. Assess the oral health needs of the community and the quality and availability of resources and services.	201, 235	DHYG 235 community projects, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Provide screening, referral, and educational services that allow patients to access the resources of the health care system.	201, 235	DHYG 235 community projects, graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation., service learning projects.
c. Provide community oral health services in a variety of settings.	201, 235	DHYG 235 community presentations and projects, graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation.
d. Facilitate patient access to oral health services by influencing individuals and/or organizations for the provision of oral health care	201, 235	DHYG 235 community presentation and projects, graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation.
e. Evaluate reimbursement mechanisms and their impact on the patient's access or oral health care.	201, 235	DHYG 235 community projects, student competency self-evaluation.
f. Evaluate the outcomes of community-based programs and plan for their future activities.	201, 235	DHYG 235 community projects, student competency self-evaluations.

**5. Professional Growth and Development:** Dental Hygienists must be aware of opportunities that may influence the profession and the changing health care environment. This competency includes the ability to:

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Corresponding Course DHYG:</b>	<b>Evaluation Methods</b>
a. Identify career options within health care, industry, education, and research and evaluate the feasibility of pursuing these dental career options.	230	DHYG 230 professionalism paper, graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation.
b. Develop practice management and marketing strategies to be used in the delivery of oral health care.	230,	DHYG 230 dental office observation reflection paper, student competency self-evaluation.
c. Access professional and social networks to pursue professional goals.	230	Graduate follow-up survey, student competency self-evaluation.