WEST LIBERTY DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

The West Liberty University Dental Hygiene Program Competencies identifies knowledge, skills, and attitudes graduates must possess to become competent and caring members of the health-care team in the delivery of dental hygiene educational, clinical, and consultative services in a variety of settings. At the completion of the Associate degree program, the dental hygiene graduate will be competent as an entry-level dental hygienist as evidenced by the completion of the following competencies.

1. To comply with state and federal laws governing the practice of dental hygiene and the ADHA Code of Ethics while providing optimal and compassionate care to a diverse population of patients and communities.
2. To use critical thinking and problem solving skills supported by evidence-based research to provide dental hygiene care, promote patient health and wellness, analyze efficacy of oral health products and treatment modalities.
3. To identify individuals and populations through risk assessment to develop strategies for improved health, disease prevention and referral for comprehensive evaluation.
4. To assess, plan, implement and evaluate the oral health needs of the community utilizing available resources for education, preventive and therapeutic services.
5. To demonstrate critical decision making skills in the development of individualized dental hygiene care through assessment, analysis, planning, implementation and evaluation.
6. To evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented clinical, preventive and educational services through outcomes assessment and modify as needed.
7. To demonstrate self-assessment skills to evaluate and modify the provision of current and continuing clinical patient care.
8. To advance personal and professional growth and development through community service activities, continuing education and affiliation with professional organizations.