



EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Dental Hygiene Program is committed to creating an educational environment that fosters the development of competent oral health professionals who are capable of thinking critically, solving problems and making responsible decisions in the delivery of dental hygiene care. The Program's approach to the educational process is to promote excellence, relevance and purpose through the provision of formal education and clinical experiences to prepare professionals who will meet the oral health education, preventive and dental hygiene care needs of the public they serve. Students are encouraged to be self-directed in their learning and establish high standards of professionalism and personal excellence. The faculty role is to provide guidance, feedback, information and evaluation to enhance the educational process.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM GOALS

Through formal education and clinical experiences, the Dental Hygiene Program is committed to prepare a dental hygienist who upon completion of the Associate of Science Degree Program will:

1. Demonstrate entry-level professional competencies as defined by the Program "Competencies for the Dental Hygiene Graduate."
2. Be prepared for employment as a licensed professional and/or continuing their education to complete an advanced degree.
3. Be prepared to utilize current dental technology in the clinical setting.
4. Incorporate evidence based decision making and critical thinking skills in the delivery of patient care.
5. Demonstrate and model ethical professional behavior as established by the American Dental Hygienists' Association.
6. Pursue life-long learning and continued professional growth and development through the participation in continuing education and professional organizations.
7. Respond to the changing health needs of the community by assuming leadership roles in service activities and volunteer efforts.