

All students are provided with a copy of the TNCC Mission Statement, Program Goals, and Competencies for the Associate of Applied Science Degree Dental Hygiene Program Graduate at dental hygiene info sessions each month. These materials are also included in the TNCC Dental Hygiene Clinic Manual provided to all students in the program. Additionally, faculty reference the competencies in course outlines and specific units of instruction.

The program competencies identify the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and philosophy that graduates of the TNCC Dental Hygiene Program are expected to achieve to enter dental hygiene practice. The document is designed to direct the educational process and serves as the basis for curriculum development, review, and outcomes assessment; and for guiding the selection of course content, sequencing, and learning activities across the curriculum. Faculty and student input provide a mechanism for periodic review and refining of the competencies.

The competencies are categorized into four domains that represent the focus of the curriculum: Ethical Values and Professionalism; Health Promotion and Community Involvement; Professional Commitment and Development; and the Dental Hygiene Process of Care. Supporting behaviors and skills are reflected for the process of care. Goals, objectives, and assignments in individual courses within the curriculum elaborate the specific mechanisms and learning experiences by which students develop and demonstrate the competencies, and are reflected in course outlines.

DOMAIN: ETHICAL VALUES & PROFESSIONALISM

The dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

1. Apply the ADHA Code of Ethics as a guide for ethical consciousness, decision-making, and practice.
2. Adhere to state & federal laws, regulations, & recommendations in the provision of dental hygiene care.
3. Serve all patients without discrimination, appreciating population diversity.
4. Communicate effectively with patients, families, communities and other health professionals in a responsive and responsible manner using verbal, non-verbal, written & electronic communication skills.

DOMAIN: HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

1. Assess the oral health needs of the community and the quality and availability of resources & services.
2. Develop, deliver, and evaluate outcomes of community oral health programs and services that incorporate strategies for health promotion, disease prevention & health maintenance.
3. Provide screening, referral, and educational services that allow patients to access the resources of the health care system.

DOMAIN: PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

1. Evaluate professional issues and scientific literature to make evidence-based decisions.
2. Engage appropriately with individuals of other professions to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values.
3. Advance the profession through leadership, service, and affiliations with professional and community organizations.

DOMAIN: DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE

The dental hygiene graduate must be able to carry out the components of the process as delineated below:

1. Provide accurate, consistent & complete documentation for assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation & documentation of dental hygiene services.
2. Use principles of risk management to assess & manage risk, and prevent liability.
3. Utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills.
4. Evaluate and integrate evidence based research outcomes with clinical expertise and patient values.
5. Support optimal oral wellness for all patients.

The evaluation methods for measuring competency can be seen in Exhibit 1-2C, Course Content. Methods include instructional methods and assessment methods.

Instructional Method	Assessment Method
Lecture	Examinations
Simulation	Quizzes
Case Studies	Final Exam
Discussion	Presentation
Problem Solving	Research paper
Team Based Learning	Reflective Discussion
Simulation Activities	Mock Clinical Board
Role Playing	Assignment of Periodontal patient
Class Debate	Case Assignment
Group work	Patient Care Proficiencies
Service Learning	OSCE
Assigned /Reading	Journal review
Case Analysis	Poster presentation
Research Paper	Peer Mentoring Paper
X-ray assessment	Clinical Competency