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MISSION & VISION STATEMENT/GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Program is committed to creating an educational environment that will foster the development of learning as a life-long process, providing students with the cognitive knowledge, psychomotor skills and overall framework of affective values to provide dental hygiene care for a diverse, dynamic population.

VISION STATEMENT

The Program will develop and implement a premier educational program incorporating creative, scholarly activity, outstanding service and continuing professional development for students, faculty, staff and the community we serve.

GOALS

There are five (6) specific goals for student learning outcomes in the Dental Hygiene Program.

Goal 1: Effectively communicate with individuals and groups from diverse populations verbally, non-verbally and in writing.

Goal 2: Use computers, and other resources to locate information related to the practice of dental hygiene and to present information to others.

Goal 3: Apply ethical standards of conduct to personal life professional roles and assuming responsibility for self-assessment and lifelong learning.

Goal 4: Promote patient health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidence-based practice.

Goal 5: Provide relevant, individualized, quality education, preventive strategies and therapeutic services that will enhance both oral and systemic health.

Goal 6: Promote the prevention of diseases and conditions affecting oral and general health.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives have been established in four areas to help define the intended outcomes of the DACC Dental Hygiene Program, these include:

TEACHING

1. The student will provide accurate, consistent and complete documentation for assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene services.
2. The student will utilize appropriate computational skills to help perform dental hygiene services.
3. The student will apply ethical principles as outlined in the professional code of ethics of the American Dental Hygienists Association to his/her personal life and to the practice of dental hygiene.
4. The student will recognize, analyze research and apply it to dental hygiene practice.
5. The student will provide care to all patients using an individualized approach that is humane, empathetic and caring and ensures the confidentiality of client information.
6. The student will develop an understanding of the disease process and promote preventive practices to promote oral and systemic health.

PATIENT CARE

1. The student will respect the goals, values, beliefs and preferences of clients while promoting optimal oral and general health.
2. The student will present educational information to clients and professional colleagues utilizing a variety of appropriate audio-visual aids and technology.
3. The student will provide the highest ethical services to all patients.
4. The student will use critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making in the assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene services.
5. The student will be able to utilize the dental hygiene process of care to address patients' needs as well as to differentiate between normal and pathology.
6. Students will stay abreast of advances in dental hygiene and ethically incorporate appropriate technology for the health and well-being of patients.

RESEARCH

1. The student will work effectively as a team member, and take a leadership role in encouraging interdisciplinary health care.
2. The student will demonstrate skill in using computers, written and graphic resources to research evidence-based, health related information.
3. The student will develop multiple strategies to continue his/her education, to stay current with contemporary practices and to further personal and professional development.
4. The student will critically analyze, conduct research and apply it to dental hygiene practice.
5. The student will assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions and care based on accepted scientific theories and research as well as the accepted standard of care.
6. The student will support and recognize current research and communicate with other professionals for the best overall health outcome for patients.

SERVICE

1. The student will consult with professional colleagues using appropriate medical/dental terminology.
2. The student will provide education/assistance to the patients/community using technology.
3. The student will identify community service projects and will continually work to improve the overall health of the community in an ethical manner.
4. The student will recognize medical/dental situations and trends. Will use critical thinking and evidence-based approaches to solve issues effectively.
5. The student will consult with other professionals as needed to help ensure healthcare is comprehensive.
6. The student will work with individuals and communities to improve oral and general health.