

As a lifelong learner/student, I believe in the power of collaborative learning and open communication. I will strive to create a safe and inclusive environment where students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas. I understand that every student learns differently, which challenges me to teach and communicate in ways that are effective for everyone. In addition to imparting knowledge and critical thinking skills, I will stay updated with the latest dental technology to equip my students for lifelong learning.

To strive to be an exceptional educator, I must enhance my strengths. My students should expect me to stay true to my values: honesty, transparency, and accountability. Being honest helps keep me fair, truthful, and sincere. Transparency helps me communicate so my students understand my expectations. I am imperfect, so accountability helps me acknowledge that I will make mistakes. I will ask my friends, family, colleagues, and students to hold me accountable.

My teaching approach would resemble what I experienced in dental hygiene school. Our program had a diverse range of students, and each student had a unique learning style. During clinic sessions, some students learned best through visual aids, while others preferred a more hands-on approach. There were also those who needed extra guidance to fully grasp the concepts being taught. I will be accommodating and flexible, giving each student the best chance to succeed.

I want my students to learn that when the patients sit in our dental chair, they trust that we are qualified and confident to give them the best possible treatment. The skills and lessons presented in the clinic and classroom are connected to the patient's overall care. If they are not competent in these areas, they present improper treatment, causing harm to the patient. Several assessment techniques will be used to evaluate whether their goals are met. Projects, exams,

quizzes, competencies, group assignments, and one-on-one assessments will be conducted, and feedback will be provided. I will adjust my teaching as needed.

After completing my class, students should have a complete understanding of dental hygiene, including concepts, principles, and practices. They will acquire the knowledge and skills to be exceptional dental hygiene professionals capable of providing exceptional patient care and applying critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills. The goal is for my students to apply the skills and knowledge learned in class to their professional lives and continue to be lifelong learners.

As an educator, I plan to utilize several activities and techniques to make their learning experience positive. These will include trips to offices to observe how classroom lessons apply to the real world of dentistry. I have great relationships with former employers, and they will welcome us into their offices. Also, I will use PowerPoint presentations, and so will the students. Zoom sessions and Microsoft Teams will be another way to communicate after school hours. They will work together on group assignments to encourage teamwork.

I have come to realize that teaching is not a job that can be confined to a strict eight-hour schedule. It requires open communication with students during and after class to address questions or clarify any information. In addition, preparing for each class requires a great deal of time and effort. As a graduate student, I attend classes in the evenings and often require clarification to complete my work. To my surprise, my professors are always available to answer my queries, even at night, in the mornings, and on weekends. Their flexibility is crucial to my success, and I am grateful for their willingness to sacrifice their personal time to help us achieve our academic goals.