

Teaching Philosophy Statement

I am preparing the students to be competent, capable, qualified, and professional dental hygienists. The students will view themselves as educated dental hygiene professionals and members of the dental hygiene community. They will be knowledgeable about the profession and field of dental hygiene. The students will be able to efficiently and correctly perform the duties of a dental hygienist including diagnosing periodontal disease, providing prophylaxis and scaling and root planing, and educating patients on proper oral hygiene. I hope their success will result in a more educated and orally healthy population. My teachings will support the American Dental Hygienists' Association and follow the standards set by the Commission of Dental Accreditation.

Students should be able to think and operate on a higher level of learning such as analyzing, evaluating, and creating under Bloom's Taxonomy. Students should be able to utilize the affective domain within the levels of valuing, organizing, and characterizing. Within Fink's significant learning, students should use all dimensions including foundational knowledge, application, integration, human dimensions, caring, and learning how to learn. Continuous feedback, various questioning techniques, and utilizing the new paradigm of learning will be used to educate students on Bloom's taxonomy, affective learning, and Fink's significant learning.

I will appeal to all learning types (auditory, visual, kinesthetic, and reading/writing) by providing a various array of assignments and activities that align with each learning type. These activities and assignments will include writing, illustrations, interactive classroom activities, and video assignments. I plan to introduce each new topic with a video at the beginning of each session to get the students interested and engaged in the topic of discussion. I intend to use prompting questions to allow for the students to utilize their critical thinking skills. The students will be partially responsible for their own learning as they will be studying the course material on their own, and I will provide the students with the necessary learning materials. Students will have the opportunity to work as individuals and in groups on certain assignments and activities throughout the course for both in-class and out of class assignments. Students will be able to gain confidence and collaboration skills from the course. The students will have formative and summative assessments throughout the course to assess their knowledge and understanding of the course material.

I plan on implementing more instructional material that incorporates all four learning styles. By doing so, I will be able to accommodate all students in my teachings and provide a large variety of educational activities and assignments. Based on my teaching experiences, I generally feel successful in communicating information to students, but I could still improve on confidence. While I am good at interacting and communicating with students, I still need to work on emanating confidence and authority. In an effort to support the growth and development of my didactic teaching abilities, I will consult with individuals who teach instructional confidence and how to project authority while maintaining a welcoming environment.

