

Teaching Philosophy Statement

My objective as an educator is to prepare dental hygiene students to enter the workforce as leaders in their field committed to their role as preventive oral health professionals that will continue to advance the discipline of dental hygiene. I challenge my students to think critically and with innovation to apply their knowledge and problem-solving abilities to provide evidence-based care and develop new solutions to ongoing issues in the field. Students are inspired by this expectation and develop a passion and deep appreciation for the dental hygiene profession and for providing patient-centered care. I facilitate student learning by lecturing course content, providing instructional videos, and assigning both individual and collaborative group work. Course content is scaffolded within each lesson and throughout the semester starting at the basic “Remembering” level of Bloom’s taxonomy and building to the “Creating” level of the taxonomy. I guide students through learning by supporting them through their mistakes and encouraging them to be self-starters that take responsibility for and direct their own learning. This approach to teaching produces competent and confident health care professionals skilled in both decision-making and problem-solving. To evaluate my teaching effectiveness, I incorporate both formative and summative assessments in my courses. With reflection and self-assessment of my past academic teaching experiences, I have provided a learning environment that is encouraging and safe for all students. I will continue to work to include new technology and media in my courses with the most up-to-date and relevant information to the field of dental hygiene. In an effort to support the growth and development of my didactic teaching abilities, I am currently attending Old Dominion University to further my knowledge in the Dental Hygiene Education field.