

As an educator, my objective is to prepare future dental hygienists to see themselves as capable, ethical, and confident professionals. I aim to design instruction that is clear, evidence-based, and aligned with ADHA competencies and CODA standards so students can develop strong clinical judgment and professional identity. My goal is to teach with intention and integrity and create learning experiences that support the values of our profession.

I challenge students by prompting them to think critically, apply evidence, and justify their decisions as emerging professionals. I expect students to progress into higher-level cognitive domains, particularly analyze, evaluate, and create. I use strategies such as case-based learning, guided questioning, and structured reflection to push students beyond basic recall and help them articulate their reasoning.

I support learning by combining clear instruction with active strategies and visual tools, such as diagrams and charts, that help adult learners make meaningful connections. I vary my methods to reach different learning preferences and use real-time feedback to help students refine their thinking. I assess learning through a mix of formative checks and performance-based evaluations that align with course outcomes and maintain high standards.

In the coming academic year, my main goal is to expand my use of interactive techniques to strengthen higher-level thinking, including harvesting, forced debate, and pass the problem. I aim to integrate more evaluation and clinical reasoning into my instruction while continuing to refine my assessments to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with professional standards.

In an effort to support the growth and development of my didactic teaching abilities, I plan to engage in ongoing professional development by attending the Teaching Professor Conference this year. I will continue reading seminal texts, including the latest peer-reviewed articles, *What the Best College Teachers Do*, and *Small Teaching*. I also plan to consult with senior faculty to ensure I am continually improving and advancing my teaching practice.

Although I am early in my formal academic teaching career, the experiences I have had through clinical practice, patient education, and my graduate coursework have given me a strong foundation to build on. These opportunities have shown me that I communicate clearly, stay organized, and approach teaching with intention and professionalism. At the same time, I recognize that I have room to grow in developing my instructional presence, expanding my teaching strategies, and gaining confidence in front of a classroom.