



Teaching philosophy

My philosophy toward learning and education is that they are unique to each student. Therefore, learning takes on an individualized nature with multiple learning styles (visual, auditory, psychomotor), and it varies from person to person; these differences must be respected and addressed by educators. Accordingly, learning should be student-centered; therefore, I believe that educators should provide activities that allow students to problem-solve their way to the solution and be involved in real-life tasks & challenges.

My goal as an educator is to prepare my students to become competent and confident dental hygienists who can do good and serve their community, profession, and themselves. Also, I hope that my future students can fulfill their professional obligation to effectively apply what they have learned in my classes and continue to be lifelong learners.

I plan to challenge my students in my future didactic and clinical teaching and encourage them to think critically by taking a facilitating role because telling them what to do will create dependent learners who rely on the teacher to give them all the answers. Furthermore, I want to create an engaging learning environment where students value learning and not simply memorize information for a test. Additionally, I try to adopt the characteristic of an effective teacher, such as enthusiasm, cooperation, quality-oriented, organization, and professionalism.

I plan to apply a progressivism approach and focus on teaching how to think rather than what to think. In addition, I got the chance to acquire many teaching techniques and strategies to help facilitate learning. For example, questioning and feedback techniques are essential to effective teaching. They are most effective when you follow Bloom's taxonomy and use a variety of cognitive levels to match the goals/objectives that you want to accomplish. Also, using different questioning techniques to manipulate the verbal dialogue is beneficial to elicit responses from students.

I had the opportunity to practice practical and clinical teaching for three semesters under the supervision of the faculty. It was an incredibly informative experience as I got to see what teaching is like behind the scenes and in action. However, when I spent in the required courses to obtain my master's degree, I was introduced to the theoretical side of learning and understood the learning process so much more. Moreover, I will continue to grow and improve my skills in my future career in academia. And in efforts to support the growth and development of my didactic teaching abilities, I will attend seminars and CE courses to make sure I keep current, pursue a doctoral degree, and teach and learn with my students. And sure, teaching or learning is a never-ending process, and over time, my educational philosophy may change, and that's okay because it means that I have grown and learned new things.

