

*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”*

Benjamin Franklin

My teaching philosophy is to prepare my students to become confident and successful dental hygienists. I encourage students to excel at tasks beyond the basic expectations of the course. I believe dental hygienists have an important role in educating the public about oral health and I make certain to teach my students about this significant responsibility, by getting them involved in ADHA and community health organizations. One of my primary goals in teaching dental hygiene students is to encourage them to live a satisfied professional life by following the core values of the dental hygiene profession. I encourage students to use the fundamental knowledge that is provided in my class and apply them to solve problems. I believe students who learn these skills will be able to work comfortably in the dental field. I expect my students to treat each other and their patients with respect. I encourage my students to develop skills of reflective judgment and effective communication which is essential in the dental hygiene field of practice.

As we are all aware, learning takes place in different stages. I utilize different stages of Bloom’s Taxonomy including remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating, and creating in my lecture. To support students learning, I plan a variety of activities and assignments. I encourage students to use critical thinking skills to manage their patients and create an appropriate treatment plan that is specific to their patient’s needs.

I present a curriculum that supports different learning styles. I incorporate varied media, hands-on, projects, individual and group works that engage the students’ process of learning. I connect students with dental professionals by inviting guest speakers. In each lecture, I include a power-point presentation to reinforce the topic that is being discussed during the class. Students’ learning will be evaluated through assignments, presentations, individual and group assignments. I believe feedbacks play an important role in students’ improvement. I provide positive and corrective feedback for future performance. Successful teaching means providing a safe educational environment where students’ curiosity is encouraged, and questions are welcome. If there is a student who needs more support, I would offer extra time outside the classroom and try to use different instructional strategies.

My teaching goal for the upcoming academic year is to enhance students learning by incorporating more community services such as Give Kids A Smile and Mission of Mercy. In addition, I like to pair freshmen students with senior students to treat a patient in a collaborative project. My teaching style is constantly evolving to accommodate students’ needs. To support the growth of my didactic teaching abilities, I have participated in the AFACCT seminars, became a member of the American Dental Education, and have been taking courses regarding dental education. I am continuously taking continuing education on the topic that I teach each semester. My goal is to bring a positive attitude, and high expectations to the classroom. My hope is to help my students see their unique abilities and use that to care for their patients.