

Teaching Philosophy

It is my goal as an educator to create a conducive learning environment where students can interact, share thoughts, and work together for a common goal of becoming dental professionals. My teaching is guided by principles of honesty, professionalism, and respect. Class time will consist of student-focused teaching strategies such as active-learning activities, self-assessments, and summative assessments that are incorporated into the curriculum to ensure students are mastering the subject knowledge. Students will have the opportunity to do self-reflections on clinical experiences and determine areas they are doing well and areas that need improvement. Self-reflections highlight students' weaknesses allowing them to focus on areas that need improvement. I believe student engagement and active learning are core components of success in the classroom. I will implement active-learning activities such as think-pair-share, gallery walk, carousel, debates, jigsaw, and peer-review. I plan to incorporate discussions and ask open-ended questions to encourage students to think outside of the box. By doing this, it enhances the student's critical thinking skills. As future dental professionals, interpersonal communication is crucial. To enhance and improve this skill, students will be required to group with other students and discuss ideas, brainstorm, and come up with probable solutions to problems. My goal for students is to think independently, creatively, and critically within the classroom and clinical setting and use these skills in practical, everyday situations. My main goal as a dental hygiene professor is to inspire and motivate students to engage with the material and develop a passion for the dental hygiene profession. In an effort to support growth and development of my didactic teaching abilities, I will stay abreast with the latest research relative to dental hygiene, continue to seek higher education, and remain involved in the dental community.