

## Teaching Philosophy

As a dental hygiene educator, my goal is to prepare students to become qualified and passionate dental hygienists who uphold the standards of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). I encourage students to view themselves as professionals dedicated to high-quality, patient-centered care, and lifelong learners. Upon completion of my courses, students will be able to think critically, collaborate, ethically reason, and demonstrate professional judgement. In the future, my students will develop into skilled dental hygienists who provide evidenced-based care and advocate for their patients, community, and profession.

I encourage students to think critically when addressing presented information and challenges regarding dental hygiene and patient care. Through my instruction, students will be provided opportunities to develop cognitively and effectively by engaging in high-level thinking skills utilizing Bloom's Taxonomy. I integrate learning experiences that engage students in analyzing, evaluating, and creation to expand their ideals and understanding. As well as fostering affective growth by facilitating students to develop values, organize, and characterize professional attitudes and practice.

To support andragogy, I use the Universal Design for Learning method by integrating PowerPoints, illustrations, videos, and additional prerecorded lectures into my teaching. I incorporate questions that are divergent and evaluative to encourage critical thinking. Collaborative and individual assignments like readings, case studies, essays, and assigned work are supplemented inside and outside of the classroom. I require students to take control of their own learning by setting known course expectations and objectives. I assess students' growth through formative and summative assessments that are aligned with the course objectives to ensure validity and reliability. I strive to create a student-centered learning environment that supports, mediates, and builds students who will feel confident and competent in all course materials.

I include diverse learning techniques, using written, visual, and verbal assignments and assessments that are individual or collaborative to help students develop higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills. I will update the course with new readings, multimedia, assignments, and assessments, while providing more experiences to encourage students' thinking, growth, and independence as future dental hygienists.

To grow and develop my didactic teaching abilities, I am reading literature and articles centered on dental hygiene education and curriculum design. I have sought mentorship and consultation amongst current faculty members to seek improvement toward meeting university and teaching standards. To improve my clinical teaching abilities, I have also attended the Educators Platform INSTRUCT seminar which concentrated on the improvement of clinical and laboratory instructor teaching skills.

I feel generally successful in my academic teaching experience. There is always room for growth and improvement through mentorship. Specifically, how to maintain student engagement and interest in course materials.