

## **Philosophy of Teaching**

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As an educator, I desire my students to become professional, ethical, and sound dental professionals who commit to lifelong learning. I create an environment where students view themselves as strong, critical thinkers and compassionate healthcare providers. My students can apply cognitive skills and have professional relationships with patients and colleagues. I hope they achieve future success by building fulfilling careers and making meaningful contributions to the dental profession and the communities they serve.

I expect my students to use critical thinking skills by analyzing, evaluating, and gathering information rather than memorizing it. I apply Bloom's taxonomy cognitive levels with objectives in the cognitive and affective domains. I incorporate Fink's significant learning by providing the foundational knowledge to the students with application activities to apply their critical thinking skills. I care about the changes, values, and interests my students will adopt professionally. I use teaching techniques to achieve these cognitive levels, including case studies, role-playing, intra-professional collaboration, hands-on clinical simulations, and discussion forums.

I incorporate both teacher-centered and student-centered approaches into my teaching style. Lectures are carefully crafted to build students' foundational knowledge and are then followed up with interactive activities to help them develop real-life scenarios. I always incorporate interactive activities so the students can develop knowledge and comprehension of the concepts they just learned. I want my students to take their foundational knowledge and be confident in the clinic/lab environment. Since my teaching field is clinical-based, I develop more skills for my students using the student-centered approach. In class, I have students role-play with each other in real-life scenarios, and I utilize open-ended question techniques. I set structured due dates in clinical environments but provide flexible learning opportunities before testing a skill.

I plan to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into my classes for the upcoming academic year. Students will use AI to role-play with AI patients to learn how to incorporate patient rapport and foundational knowledge. Specific updates to my courses include new critical thinking discussion board activities that will deepen foundational knowledge and provide new insight from student peers.

I am dedicated to attending professional development and continuing education courses to continue my didactic and clinical teaching growth and development. I am on a dental education platform with professional development in specific course topics that I teach. I will attend the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association Scientific Sessions to incorporate best practices into the clinical courses. I am pursuing my Master's with a concentration in education, where the educational classes are constantly increasing my foundational knowledge.

Overall, I am confident in my academic teaching experiences. There is always room for continuous improvement in my teaching. After each semester, I carefully consider student feedback to enhance the learning experiences within my courses to benefit future students. Just as the dental profession demands lifelong learning, I am equally committed to continuous academic growth and development.