

## SWC DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

Southwestern College Dental Hygiene has adopted competencies from those established by the American Dental Education Association and adapted them to meet the needs of SWCDH graduates and the communities served.

### COMPETENCY A: CORE

**Major Competency:** *The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College will possess the ethics, values, skills, and knowledge integral to all aspects of the profession.*

#### Supportive Competencies:

- A.1 Apply a professional code of ethics in all endeavors.
- A.2 Adhere to state and federal laws, recommendations, and regulations in the provision of dental hygiene care.
- A.3 Provide dental hygiene care to promote patient/client health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidence-based practice.
- A.4 Use evidence-based decision making to evaluate and incorporate emerging treatment modalities founded on accepted scientific theories and research and standard of care.
- A.5 Continuously perform self-assessment for lifelong learning and professional growth.
- A.6 Promote the profession through service activities and affiliations with professional organizations.
- A.7 Communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations.
- A.8 Provide accurate, consistent, and complete assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene services.

### COMPETENCY B: HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

**Major Competency:** *The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College will have a general knowledge of wellness, health determinants, and characteristics of various patient/client communities. The hygienist needs to emphasize both prevention of disease and effective health care delivery.*

#### Supportive Competencies:

- B.1 Promote the values of oral and general health and wellness to the public and organizations within and outside the profession.
- B.2 Respect the goals, values, beliefs, and preferences of the patient/client while promoting optimal oral and general health.
- B.3 Identify individual and population risk factors and develop strategies that promote health related quality of life.
- B.4 Refer patients/clients who may have a physiologic, psychological, and/or social problem for comprehensive patient/client evaluation.
- B.5 Evaluate and utilize methods to ensure the health and safety of the patient/client and the dental hygienist in the delivery of dental hygiene.

## COMPETENCY C: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Major Competency:** *The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College will be able to appreciate and understand his/her role as a health professional at the local, state, and national levels.*

### Supportive Competencies

- C.1 Assess the oral health needs of a community and the quality and availability of resources and services.
- C.2 Provide oral health, referral, and educational services in a variety of settings that allow clients to access resources of the health care system.
- C.3 Facilitate client access to oral health services by influencing individuals and/or organizations for the provision of oral health care.
- C.4 Evaluate the outcomes of community-based programs and their impact on the patient's/client's access to oral health care and plan for future activities.

## COMPETENCY D: PATIENT/CLIENT CARE

**Major Competency:** *The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College will be able to use their skills to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate treatment.*

### Supportive Competencies

- D.1 **Assessment (A)**  
Systematically collect, analyze, and record data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of a variety of patients/clients using methods consistent with medico-legal principles.
- D.2 **Diagnosis (B)**  
Use critical decision making skills to reach conclusions about the patient's/client's dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data.
- D.3 **Planning (C)**  
Collaborate with the patient/client, and/or other health professionals, to formulate a comprehensive dental hygiene care plan that is patient/client-centered and based on current scientific evidence.
- D.4 **Implementation (D)**  
Provide specialized treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health. Assist in achieving oral health goals formulated in collaboration with the patient/client.
- D.5 **Evaluation (E)**  
Evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented clinical, preventive, and educational services. Compare actual outcomes to expected outcomes, reevaluating goals, diagnoses, and services when expected outcomes are not achieved.

## COMPETENCY E: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Major Competency:** *The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College will be aware of a variety of opportunities for Professional Growth and Development.*

### Supportive Competencies

- E.1 Identify career options within health care, industry, education, and research and evaluate the feasibility of pursuing dental hygiene opportunities.
- E.2 Develop practice management and marketing strategies to be used in the delivery of oral health care.
- E.3 Access professional and social networks to pursue professional goals.