



*Dental Hygiene Program  
Competencies*

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>PROFESSIONALISM</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to employ appropriate thought, action, and respect for our diverse population
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
I	1.1	provide care for all patients/clients with compassion and thoughtful practice
I	1.2	recognize cultural differences in the population as they relate to the practice of dental hygiene
I	1.3	apply appropriate motivational strategies when teaching health promotion and disease prevention to clients in private and community health care settings
I	1.4	design treatment strategies based on knowledge of individual and population predisposing risk factors and disease trends
I	1.5	assess community oral health needs, as well as available resources and services
<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>PROFESSIONALISM</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to discern and manage the ethical issues of dental hygiene practice in a rapidly changing environment.

**SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:** Specifically, the new graduate will be able to:

- I 2.1 articulate ethical principles relevant to dental hygiene practice with personal and professional integrity
- I 2.2 maintain honesty and integrity in relationships with patients/clients, colleagues, and other professionals
- I 2.3 ensure the privacy of the patient/client during dental hygiene and counseling and maintain confidentiality of patient records
- I 2.4 comply with all state and federal laws governing the practice of dental hygiene
- I 2.5 take action against the incompetent and unethical colleague; assist and direct the impaired colleague
- I 2.6 demonstrate a professional code of ethics in all aspects of managing patient care
- I 2.7 identify and report signs of abuse and neglect as required by law
- I 2.8 assume responsibility and accountability for dental hygiene actions and services

**DOMAIN I PROFESSIONALISM**

**I 3 MAJOR COMPETENCY:** The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to acquire and synthesize information in a critical, scientific, and effective manner.

**SUPPORTING COMPETENCIES:** Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:

- I 3.1 accept responsibility for solving problems and making decisions based on accepted scientific principles
- I 3.2 critically analyze published reports of oral health research and apply this information to the practice of dental hygiene
- I 3.3 access and analyze scientific data from the WWW

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>PROFESSIONALISM</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to contribute to improving the knowledge, skills, and values of the profession of dental hygiene.
<b>SUPPORTING COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
I	4.1	advance the profession through service activities and affiliations with professional organizations
I	4.2	recognize, expand, and contribute to the knowledge base of dental hygiene
I	4.3	promote the values of the profession to the public and other organizations both within and outside of the dental profession
I	4.4	apply self assessment skills as preparation for life long learning
I	4.5	apply principles of professionalism in conduct, speech, appearance and written communication
<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>II:</b>	<b>HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to ( <u>Individual</u> ) provide planned educational services using appropriate interpersonal communication skills and educational strategies to promote optimal health.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
II	5.1	serve as a role model by engaging in preventive health behaviors to maintain optimal oral and general health
II	5.2	identify the oral health needs of individuals and assist them in the development of appropriate and individualized self-care regimens
II	5.3	encourage patients/clients to assume responsibility for their health and promote adherence to self-care regimes

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to ( <u>Community</u> ) initiate and assume responsibility for health promotive and disease preventive activities for a variety of populations.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
II	6.1	identify services that promote oral health and prevent oral disease
II	6.2	provide screening, referral, and educational services to bring consumers into the health care delivery system
II	6.3	manage, assist, and provide dental hygiene services in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, offices, extended care facilities, community programs, and schools.
<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to systematically collect, analyze, and accurately record baseline data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of patients/clients using methods consistent with medicolegal principles.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
III	7.1	systematically collect and analyze the following data to identify adult and pediatric patients' individual needs and oral health problems: A. medical/dental histories B. vital signs C. extra/intra oral examination D. periodontal and hard tissue examinations E. radiographs F. indices G. risk assessments (tobacco, systemic, caries)
III	7.2	develop a comprehensive patient/client record as a legal document and maintain accurate patient/client treatment records with confidentiality.
III	7.3	identify patients at risk for a medical emergency

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to use critical decision making skills to identify existing problems, potential problems, etiologic factors and contributing factors, as well as establish realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate will be able to:		
III	8.1	analyze patient data to formulate a dental hygiene diagnosis and subsequent care plan based that is congruent with treatment plans by the dentist and other health professionals
III	8.2	establish oral health goals with the patient/client, family, and/or guardian as an active participant
III	8.3	establish a planned sequence of educational and clinical dental hygiene interventions using a problem-based approach
III	8.4	obtain informed consent from patient/client prior to implementation of services
<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to provide treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health and assist the patient/client in achieving oral health goals.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
III	9.1	use current infection control procedures
III	9.2	apply basic and advanced principles of dental hygiene instrumentation to remove deposits without trauma to hard and soft tissues
III	9.3	control pain and anxiety using appropriate anesthesia, nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation and behavioral modification techniques
III	9.4	select and administer appropriate chemotherapeutic agents within the

		scope of dental hygiene practice
III	9.5	provide fluoride therapy
III	9.6	apply pit and fissure sealants
III	9.7	polish and maintain amalgam restorations
III	9.8	provide health education counseling
III	9.9	provide nutritional counseling as it applies to oral health
III	9.10	provide life support measures to manage medical emergencies in the patient/client care environment
III	9.11	implement measures to minimize occupational hazards in the work place
<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE</b>
III	<b>10</b>	<b>MAJOR COMPETENCY:</b> The new dental hygiene graduate from Southwestern College must be able to evaluate the effectiveness of planned clinical and educational services and modify as necessary for optimum oral health.
<b>SUPPORTIVE COMPETENCIES:</b> Specifically, the new graduate must be able to:		
III	10.1	determine the clinical outcomes of dental hygiene care interventions using indices, instruments, and examination techniques
III	10.2	determine patient's/client's satisfaction with the dental hygiene care received and the oral health status achieved
III	10.3	develop and maintain a recall/continuing care system appropriate to the practice setting and individual patient/client needs.
III	10.4	self-evaluate their ability to perform dental hygiene services at a high standard of care