

Instruction

Program: Dental Hygiene AS Degree
Instructional Division: Sciences and Mathematics
Program Lead: Stacy Eastman

Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program is to provide students with the educational setting that is challenging, yet student friendly, the produces dental hygienists who are knowledgeable, technically excellent, compassionate and morally and ethically strong who will uphold the highest standards of the profession while treating every patient with kindness and dignity.

Program Summary:

The Dental Hygiene Program is a two year program that prepares students to obtain a license to practice dental hygiene and awards them a Certificate in Dental Hygiene and an Associate of Science Degree. The Dental Hygiene Program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and our accreditation was reaffirmed in 2009. Currently, we accept 20 students per class.

The dental hygiene curriculum is designed so that each semester builds upon the next in both didactic and clinical curricula. To begin with, students have prerequisites that they must complete before they are eligible to apply to the program. Once in the program, the first semester dental hygiene courses become prerequisites for the second semester dental hygiene courses and then second semester dental hygiene courses become prerequisites for the third semester dental hygiene courses and so on. Students must successfully complete all dental hygiene courses for the current semester before they can continue on in the program. The program consists of 4 semesters and the dental hygiene students complete a total of 58 semester units of dental hygiene course work.

Annual Program Goals Update:

1. Continue to provide excellent service to the patients and maintain accreditation standards.

Accomplished.

2. Work toward developing new clinic evaluation forms.

In progress.

3. Work toward developing a new clinical evaluation system.

In progress.

4. Continue monthly staff meetings.

Accomplished and ongoing.

5. Develop a database with all of our current and previous students.

Accomplished and ongoing.

6. Continue to incorporate new technologies into the Dental Hygiene Program.

Accomplished and ongoing.

7. Develop a tracking system so that student's patient contacts can be electronically tracked.

In progress.

Course Enrollment Trends:

The enrollment for dental hygiene has been stable and we continue to have an adequate pool of qualified applicants. The dental hygiene students must apply to the program and be accepted based on objective criteria that has been established by the selection committee. All program information and applications are available to prospective students on the Taft College webpage.

Course and Section Success Rates:

In 2013, the program success rate was 90%.

In 2013, we graduated 18 students. 20 students were admitted to the Class of 2013 and 18 students completed the program. The 2 students that did not complete the program did not successfully complete DNTL 1514 Introduction to Clinic.

Major Counts:

All of our students are Dental Hygiene majors.

Award Counts:

In 2013: 18 Certificates in Dental Hygiene awarded
18 AS Degree awarded

Course Level SLO Summary:

The course level SLO's have all been revised and uploaded. The faculty are in the process of evaluating.

Program Level SLO Summary:

The program SLO's had to be revised so that we could link each dental hygiene course to the program SLO's. To date the new program SLO's have been written and uploaded and I am in the process of evaluating.

Summary and Implications of Major Findings:

We accomplished many of our goals and some of them have become ongoing Program Goals. Some of our goals are in progress.

Developing a new clinical evaluation system and new forms has proven to be the most challenging. At our monthly staff meetings, it is always an agenda item. Unfortunately, we have yet to devise a new clinical evaluation system that meets our needs and will still insure student success. This is an entire process that involves assessment, developing, planning, implementing and the evaluating. This can only be accomplished over time. We are committed to continuing to strive to accomplish this goal.

We accomplished our goal of having monthly staff meeting and we found them so helpful that this is going to continue to be a program goal. We established an annual staff meeting schedule so everyone knows when and where the meetings will be with enough time to plan ahead. We also have a different faculty member host each meeting. As the host, they are responsible for choosing the place and also for bringing 1 new topic for discussion to the meeting.

We accomplished our goal of establishing a database with all of our current and previous students. We developed the database and used it to notify all present and previous students of the 20 year Anniversary celebration. We want to keep moving forward with this and have discussed having a contact person from each of the classes to assist us in obtaining current contact information so that we can maintain a current database. This will continue to be a program goal.

We accomplished our goal of incorporating new technologies into the Dental Hygiene Program and this will continue to be a program goal as we look for new technology to incorporate in the Dental Hygiene Program. We have just recently discovered that Apple has a new app that will allow students to view their patient's radiographs on their iPads so now they can have their patient's films accessible at their clinic stations. We are also exploring incorporating Patient Education videos into patient care in the clinic. This might be accomplished through an app, or you tube video or even a patient education video they have create themselves using their iPads. Lastly, we are exploring the possibility of having the dental hygiene graduates certified in the use of soft tissue lasers. This would not be a part of their regular curriculum but something that we offer additional training and certification in. We are just waiting to see if this can be covered through a grant and then it can be scheduled the additional training. Incorporating new technologies is always going to be an on going process.

We are in the process of developing a tracking system so that student's patient contact information can be tracked electronically. I have been working with the Instructional Technologist to accomplish this goal.

We accomplished our goal of providing excellent service to the patients while maintaining accreditation standards. This will always be a program goal and will be an ongoing process.

The program review for the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program should help the program evaluate the strengths and weakness of both the didactic and clinical courses. The dental program director and faculty conduct annual program review used for program improvement and to ensure students receive the highest level of education and are competent and successful in the workforce. We are committed to performing the review annually.

List of Annual Program Goal Statements:

1. Continue to provide excellent service to the patients while maintaining accreditation standards.
2. Continue to work toward developing a new clinical evaluation system.
3. Continue to work toward developing new clinic evaluation forms.
4. Continue monthly staff meetings.
5. Continue to work toward developing and maintaining a current database of current and previous students.
6. Continue to incorporate new technologies into the Dental Hygiene Program.
7. Continue to work on developing an electronic tracking system of student's patient contacts.
8. Work on developing a formal remediation program for dental hygiene students that need additional instruction in order to be successful.