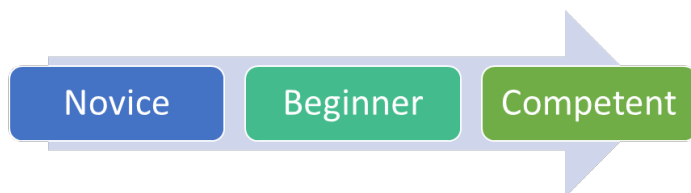


Program Competencies for ISU Dental Hygiene Graduates

The program competencies for Idaho State University Dental Hygiene Graduates identify and organize the knowledge, skills, and attitudes graduates must attain for entry into the dental hygiene profession. These competencies are articulated in the *Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs* revised in 2022 by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The department aims to meet and exceed the CODA competencies as well as other competencies established by professional agencies and organizations.



The dental hygiene curriculum is designed to provide learning experiences to help students progress from the Novice level, to the Beginner level, and finally the Competent level.

- Novice student performance is “Characterized by rote learning, rule-driven performance, accumulation of isolated tasks and facts, heavy dependence on teachers, hesitant performance” (Chambers & Glassman, 1997, p. 665).
- Beginner student performance is “Characterized by greater speed and fluidity of performance and broader grasp of facts, beginnings of integration and natural sequencing, some student choice, although still largely teacher-dependent” (Chambers & Glassman, 1997, p. 663).
- Competent student performance is “Characterized by appropriate speed and freedom from errors, clinical judgment, understanding, and independence to begin unsupervised professional practice. Responsibility for assuring quality and for continued professional growth have been transferred to the student” (Chambers & Glassman, 1997, p. 664).

Students must demonstrate successful attainment of the program competencies in order to graduate. Once graduated and practicing dental hygiene, experience and continued learning will result in graduates becoming proficient, and eventually with years of experience, an expert dental hygienist.

The program competencies are categorized into these three overarching topics:

Professionalism and Ethics

Graduates must demonstrate professional behavior by using critical thinking, problem solving skills, and effective communication. Professional decision-making must be consistent with dental hygiene standards of care, legal regulations, and the ADHA Code of Ethics.

Graduates must possess the skills necessary to enhance professional development and pursue life-long learning. Advancing and promoting the values of the profession will strengthen professional commitment.

Process of Care

Graduates must demonstrate clinical competence in providing comprehensive oral health care including non-surgical periodontal therapy and expanded functions to foster optimal oral health. Clinical competence includes client assessment and diagnosis, as well as planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation of treatment for clients of all ages and with all classifications of periodontal diseases. The scope of practice encompasses clients of diverse cultural and socioeconomic populations including those exhibiting medically compromised health or special needs conditions.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the Community

Graduates must be competent to conduct health promotion and disease prevention programs in diverse communities. Competence includes the skills necessary to assess, develop, implement, and evaluate community-based programs that will benefit the oral health and total body wellness of community members and groups.

2023-24 Program Competencies based on 2022 CODA Standards	
Patient Care Competencies	
<i>2.12: Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all patient populations including</i>	
1.	Child
2.	Adolescent
3.	Adult
4.	Geriatric
5.	Special Needs
<i>2.13: Graduates must be competent in providing the dental hygiene process of care which includes:</i>	
a. comprehensive collection of patient data to identify the physical and oral health status;	
1.	Assess client concerns, goals, values, needs, and preferences to guide person-centered care.
2.	Accurately collect, record, and interpret a medical/ dental history and vital signs recognizing conditions that require consultation, referral, special precautions, or consideration prior to or during dental hygiene care.
3.	Perform an extraoral and intraoral examination of all the hard and soft tissue including the periodontium and teeth; accurately record and interpret the pathological and non-pathological findings; and initiate monitoring or referral procedures based on individual client needs.
4.	Analyze the client’s individual conditions to determine the need for radiographs, and safely expose diagnostic quality radiographs.
b. analysis of assessment findings and use of critical thinking in order to address the patient’s dental hygiene treatment needs;	
1.	Interpret radiographic images and correlate with clinical documented conditions.
2.	Recognize risk factors and implement interventions for the prevention and control of disease.
3.	Analyze and interpret the assessment data to formulate an accurate dental hygiene diagnosis.
c. establishment of a dental hygiene care plan that reflects the realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health;	
1.	Design a comprehensive, individualized dental hygiene care plan collaboratively with the client and engage the person in the decision- making process for preventing and treating oral diseases.
2.	Provide a dental hygiene case presentation which includes the dental hygiene diagnosis and obtain informed consent from the client using effective interpersonal and communication skills.
d. provision of comprehensive patient-centered treatment and evidence-based care in a manner minimizing risk and optimizing oral health;	
1.	Recognize risk factors and implement interventions for the prevention and control of disease.

2023-24 Program Competencies based on 2022 CODA Standards

2. Educate clients on disease theories and risk factors contributing to caries, periodontal disease, and oral and systemic health conditions; and preventive and therapeutic interventions to address the client's individual needs.
3. Provide comprehensive, safe, and comfortable care for clients through the use of appropriate referrals, client management strategies, pain control measures, medical emergency management, and life support measures.
4. Provide supportive and preventive dental hygiene services that can be legally performed in any state using efficient time management (e.g., selective polishing, amalgam polishing, sealants, margination, impressions study models, fluoride and whitening trays, localized therapeutic delivery, STC, etc.).
5. Deliver quality restorative oral health care (placing and finishing amalgam and composite restorations, etc.); to promote and maintain oral health.
6. Adhere to infection control standards following the CDC, OSHA, and OSAP guidelines and departmental policies and protocols to prevent the transmission of infectious disease to others.

e. measurement of the extent to which goals identified in the dental hygiene care plan are achieved;

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of dental hygiene care and the client's self-care based on clinical parameters, client satisfaction, and client self-assessment; and reinforce referrals as necessary.
2. Critically assess treatment outcomes, dental hygiene diagnosis, and patient behaviors to determine prognosis, which establishes the continuing care intervals for periodontal supportive therapy.

f. complete and accurate recording of all documentation relevant to patient care.

2-14: Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal diseases including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease (by applying basic and advanced principles of debridement, scaling, and root planning to obtain the appropriate clinical endpoint without causing trauma to hard and soft tissue):

1. Newly diagnosed disease
2. Maintenance

2-15: Graduates must be competent in interprofessional communication, collaboration and interaction with other members of the health care team to support comprehensive patient care.

1. Utilize effective written and verbal communication skills during interactions with clients, colleagues, and other professionals.
2. Recognize the cultural influences impacting the delivery of health services to individuals and communities (i.e. health status, health services and health beliefs).
3. Provide screenings, education, preventive agents, and referrals for diverse populations in a variety of community settings.

2-16: Graduates must demonstrate competence in:

- a) assessing the oral health needs of community-based programs
- b) planning an oral health program to include health promotion and disease prevention activities
- c) implementing the planned program, and,
- d) evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented program.

2-17: Graduates must be competent in providing appropriate support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.

Ethics and Professionalism

2-19: Graduates must be competent in the application of the principles of ethical reasoning, ethical decision making and professional responsibility as they pertain to the:

- academic environment,
- research,
- patient care,
- and practice management.

2-20: Graduates must be competent in applying legal and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.

Critical Thinking

2023-24 Program Competencies based on 2022 CODA Standards

2.21: Graduates must be competent in the application of self-assessment skills to prepare them for life-long learning.

2.22: Graduates must be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature.

2.23: Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients.