Patient Care Competencies

(Adapted from *Competencies for Entry into the Profession of Dental Hygiene* approved by the 2003 American Dental Education Association House of Delegates)

Introduction

Competence is an acceptable, measurable defined level of special skill and knowledge derived from education, experience, role modeling and overall socialization. To be competent, an entry level dental hygienist must perform at or above the acceptable defined standards. This document serves as the foundation of the Dental Hygiene curriculum and defines the expected knowledge base and skill set of a student graduating from Allegany College of Maryland's Dental Hygiene Program.

DOMAIN I: Professionalism and Ethics (PE)

Program Learning Outcome (PLO) (Goal): The graduating dental hygienist must use and advance professional knowledge and skills to serve the patient and public using sound ethical judgments and evidence-based knowledge.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

PE 1: Adhere to a professional code of ethics and appropriate legal and regulatory guidelines in the provision of all oral health services.

PE 2: Communicate effectively with diverse populations while delivering culturally competent care without discrimination.

PE 3: Implement quality assurance strategies in order to ensure standard of care.

DOMAIN II: Health Promotion and Community Involvement (HP and CI)

Program Learning Outcome (PLO) (Goal): The graduating dental hygienist must promote oral and systemic health through individual and community involvement.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

HP 1: Identify the oral health needs of individuals and assist them in the development of appropriate and individualized self-care regimens and behaviors designed to obtain optimal health.

HP 2: Utilize an interdisciplinary approach to healthcare delivery.

CI 1: Assess, plan, implement, and evaluate a community-based program.

CI 2: Recognize the importance of public policy and legislative processes in the delivery of dental hygiene care.

CI 3: Provide screening, referral, and educational services that encourages patients to utilize the health care system to improve overall health.

CI 4: Identify and participate in the delivery of dental hygiene services in alternative settings.

DOMAIN III: Dental Hygiene Process of Care (PC)

Program Learning Outcome (PLO) (Goal): The graduating dental hygienist must demonstrate the skills necessary to carry out the Dental Hygiene Process of Care which include assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation of diverse patient populations.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

PC 1: Systematically collect, analyze and accurately record data on the general, oral and psycho-social health status of a variety of patients using methods consistent with medical-legal and ethical principles.

PC 2: Use critical decision-making skills to identify and prioritize conditions and establish realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.

PC 3: Collaborate with the patient, dentist and other health professionals to formulate evidence based, individualized treatment plan.

PC 4: Provide treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health and assist the patient in achieving oral health goals.

PC 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of preventive, therapeutic, and educational services and modify as needed.

PC 6: Provide accurate, consistent, and complete documentation of dental hygiene services.

DOMAIN IV: Professional Growth and Development (PGD)

Program Learning Outcome (PLO) (Goal): The graduating dental hygienist must develop an appreciation for professional growth and participation in scholarly activity that contributes to the advancement of the profession.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

PGD 1: Participate in professional organizations and advance the profession through leadership and community service activities.

PGD 2: Research and evaluate scientific literature in order to make evidence-based decisions.