

Dental Hygienist

I. Knowing the Content

The professional education program has a clearly articulated program that ensures that candidates for the Dental Hygienist certification have a bachelor's degree, a current license in dental hygiene, and have completed the studies and experiences which demonstrate their knowledge of and competence in addressing the dental care needs of school aged children (K-12) including:

I.A. General and professional education studies which complement an approved dental hygiene course of study

I.B. Adolescent and child development including,

- human behavior and development,
- child psychology,
- cultural, biological, and economic influence on child dental health, learning, and health care delivery

I.C. School curriculum design, implementation and assessment including,

- responsibilities of a school dental hygienist,
- methods and models of teaching dental health and nutrition at the elementary and secondary school levels,
- integrating dental health and nutrition into school curriculum,
- instructional media design and application,
- statistical analysis and assessment of dental health programming

II. Performances

The professional education program provides evidence that each Dental Hygienist certification candidate has demonstrated competence in the content areas during a field experiences and a 60-hour required practicum. The field experiences and practicum must be in diverse settings and educational levels while under the supervision of a certified school dental hygienist. The program also provides evidence that the criteria and competencies for exit from the Dental Hygienist certification program are assessed in coursework, field experiences and the practicum and require the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in fostering student learning.

III. Professionalism

The professional education program provides evidence that each Dental Hygienist certification candidate demonstrates knowledge of and competencies in promoting professionalism in school and community settings including:

III.A. Professional development programs on topics relevant to dental hygienic practice

- III.B. Professional organizations, publications and resources
- III.C. Ability to communicate effectively with parents/guardians, other agencies and the community at large
- III.D. Integrity and ethical behavior, professional conduct as stated in Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators; and local, state, and federal laws and regulations
- III.E. Collaborating with teachers, administrators, counselors and parents