**PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

**Program Competency #1: Professional and Ethical Behavior.** The dental hygiene graduate must demonstrate professional behaviors that are consistent with dental hygiene Standards of Care, legal regulations, and the Core Values of the ADHA Code of Ethics.

- **Supporting Behavior 1.1:** Follow laws and regulations for the provision of oral health care services.
- **Supporting Behavior 1.2:** Utilize effective written and verbal communication skills during interactions with clients, colleagues, and other professionals.
- **Supporting Behavior 1.3:** Utilize effective problem solving strategies related to comprehensive client care and ethical situations including those situations related to research and practice management.
- **Supporting Behavior 1.4:** Conduct professional activities in accordance with the Core Values of the ADHA Code of Ethics and Standards of Care.
- **Supporting Behavior 1.5:** Assume responsibility for recording comprehensive and concise documentation of all integrated aspects of care.
- **Supporting Behavior 1.6:** Investigate evidence-based scientific literature and apply ethical and legal principles when engaged in professional activities.

**Program Competency #2: Professional Development.** The dental hygiene graduate must acquire and synthesize information to continue life-long learning in the professional discipline.

- **Supporting Behavior 2.1:** Assume responsibility for professional development through self-assessment and critical thinking skills.
- **Supporting Behavior 2.2:** Access and critically evaluate scientific literature to make evidence-based decisions that improve the quality of care to clients and communities.

**Program Competency #3: Professional Commitment.** The dental hygiene graduate must strengthen commitment to the profession by advancing and promoting its values and enhancing oral health through interprofessional collaborations.

- **Supporting Behavior 3.1:** Promote the profession during interprofessional collaborative interactions.
- **Supporting Behavior 3.2:** Engage in interprofessional activities to disseminate information to advance oral health knowledge of other health care professionals.

**Program Competency #4: Client Population.** The dental hygiene graduate must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for members of diverse populations.
• **Supporting Behavior 4.1:** Provide quality, safe, and comfortable dental hygiene care for the child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric client.

• **Supporting Behavior 4.2:** Provide quality, safe, and comfortable dental hygiene care for clients with special needs and those from diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Program Competency #5: Assessment.** The dental hygiene graduate must systematically collect, analyze, and record conditions of systemic, oral, and psychosocial health of various client populations.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.1:** Assess client concerns, goals, values, needs, and preferences to guide person-centered care.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.2:** 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.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.3:** 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.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.4:** Analyze the client’s individual conditions to determine the need for radiographs, and safely expose diagnostic quality radiographs.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.5:** Interpret radiographic images and correlate with clinical documented conditions.

• **Supporting Behavior 5.6:** Recognize risk factors and implement interventions for the prevention and control of disease.

**Program Competency #6: Dental Hygiene Diagnosis.** The dental hygiene graduate must use critical thinking and problem-solving to determine the client’s dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data.

• **Supporting Behavior 6.1:** Use critical decision making skills to analyze and interpret the assessment data to formulate an accurate dental hygiene diagnosis.

**Program Competency #7: Planning.** The dental hygiene graduate must formulate a comprehensive, client-centered care plan based on assessment information, dental hygiene diagnosis, and current scientific evidence.

• **Supporting Behavior 7.1:** 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.

• **Supporting Behavior 7.2:** 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.
Program Competency #8: *Implementation*. The dental hygiene graduate must provide individualized care that encompasses educational, preventive, and therapeutic services to achieve and maintain oral health.

- **Supporting Behavior 8.1**: 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.

- **Supporting Behavior 8.2**: 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.

- **Supporting Behavior 8.3**: For various stages of periodontal disease including moderate to severe stages of periodontitis, apply basic and advanced principles of debridement, scaling and root planing to obtain the appropriate clinical endpoint without causing trauma to hard or soft tissue.

- **Supporting Behavior 8.4**: 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.).

- **Supporting Behavior 8.5**: Deliver quality restorative oral health care (placing and finishing amalgam and composite restorations, etc.); to promote and maintain oral health.

- **Supporting Behavior 8.6**: 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.

Program Competency #9: *Evaluation and Maintenance*. The dental hygiene graduate must evaluate the effectiveness of implemented educational, preventive, therapeutic, and restorative services and make modifications as needed.

- **Supporting Behavior 9.1**: Compare client’s and clinician’s initial goals to outcomes following treatment.

- **Supporting Behavior 9.2**: 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.

- **Supporting Behavior 9.3**: Critically assess treatment outcomes, dental hygiene diagnosis, and patient behaviors to determine prognosis, which establishes the continuing care intervals for periodontal supportive therapy.
Program Competency #10: Community Involvement. The dental hygiene graduate must assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention activities in the community and collaborate with other health care professionals, organizations, or governmental agencies concerning oral health care services.

- **Supporting Behavior 10.1**: Assess and plan oral health programs to diverse populations or those with limited access to care in a variety of community settings.

- **Supporting Behavior 10.2**: Implement and evaluate outcomes of oral health programs in community settings.

- **Supporting Behavior 10.3**: Present health promotion and disease prevention information using appropriate and effective teaching strategies in oral health programs or community rotations.

- **Supporting Behavior 10.4**: Provide screenings, education, preventive agents, and referrals for diverse populations in a variety of community settings.