



Course Description

DEH1811 | Professional Issues | 2.00 credits

This course is designed to provide the dental hygiene student with an understanding of the political, social, environmental and professional issues that affect the practice of dental hygiene. These issues include a) cultural diversity, b) legal and ethical responsibilities, c) sexual harassment, d) child abuse, e) problem solving, and f) communication style. Corequisite: DEH1800L

Course Competencies

Course Competency 1: The student will explore key issues affecting dental hygiene practice by:

1. Analyzing the impact of cultural diversity on patient care and communication
2. Investigating legal and ethical responsibilities in the dental hygiene profession
3. Examining the effects of social and environmental factors on oral health outcomes

Course Competency 2: The student will develop awareness of professional responsibilities by:

1. Identifying strategies to address and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace
2. Recognizing signs of child abuse and understanding mandatory reporting protocols
3. Evaluating ethical dilemmas and applying problem-solving techniques in clinical scenarios

Course Competency 3: The student will enhance their communication skills by:

1. Practicing effective communication styles tailored to diverse patient populations
2. Engaging in role-playing exercises to navigate challenging conversations
3. Reflecting on personal communication strengths and areas for improvement in professional settings

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society