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**TITLE 16**  
**California Code of Regulations**  
**Professional and Vocational Regulations**  
**Division 11**  
**Dental Hygiene Committee of California**

**ARTICLE 3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**§ 1103. Definitions.**

For purposes of this division, the term:

- (a) "Academic year" means a period of education consisting of a minimum of forty-five (45) quarter units, thirty (30) semester units, or a duration deemed equivalent thereto by the Committee.
- (b) "Analgesia" means a state of decreased sensibility to pain, such as that produced by using nitrous oxide and oxygen with or without local anesthesia.
- (c) "Clinical instruction" means instruction in which students receive supervised patient care experiences in performing procedures in a clinical setting to achieve safe and effective clinical outcomes. The instructor to student ratio shall meet approved accreditation standards.
- (d) "Clinical practice" means the planned learning experiences designed for students to apply dental hygiene knowledge and skills to meet course objectives in a variety of Committee-approved clinical settings. Clinical practice may include learning experiences provided in various settings, including, but not limited to, dental hygiene skills labs, simulation labs, and computer labs, as well as health care agencies.
- (e) "Clinical setting" means a setting that accommodates patient care.
- (f) "Clinical outcome" is the result derived from a specific intervention or treatment.
- (g) "Competencies" means statements describing the abilities needed to practice dental hygiene, including skills, understanding, and professional values, that are performed independently in realistic settings.
- (h) "Competent" means possessing the knowledge, skills and values required in the dental hygiene process of care to practice dental hygiene or provide instruction within a dental hygiene educational program.
- (i) "Curriculum" means an organized set of courses of learning which are prerequisite to the award of a degree or diploma.
- (j) "Dental hygiene process of care" means the application of scientific, evidence-based knowledge in the identification and treatment of actual or potential patient health problems. The dental hygiene

process of care includes assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning and outcome identification, implementation, evaluation and documentation, and will serve as the accepted professional standard for decision making.

(k) "Didactic instruction" means instruction through lectures, seminars or demonstrations, as distinguished from clinical or laboratory instruction.

(l) "Distance education" means education to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously using one or more of the following technologies:

(1) the internet;

(2) one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite or wireless communication devices;

(3) audio conferencing;

(4) video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMS, if the cassettes, DVDs or CD-ROMS are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in (l)(1-3).

(m) "Educational program" means a progressive or planned system of training, instruction or study.

(n) "Goal" means an intention or expectation that requires several tasks to produce the desired result.

(o) "Graduate" means a dental hygiene student who has completed all required studies within a dental hygiene educational program and has obtained a degree.

(p) "Homebound" means a person who is unable to receive care in a dental office or clinic due to a disabling physical or mental condition.

(q) "Laboratory instruction" means instruction designed to perform procedures using instructional materials in which students receive supervised experience performing procedures. The instructor to student ratio shall meet approved accreditation standards.

(r) "Learning experience" means those activities planned for students by the faculty that are designed to meet the objectives of the required course of instruction, including the basic standards of competent performance.

(s) "Learning outcomes" are statements that clearly state the expected knowledge, skills, values and competencies that students are expected to acquire in both didactic and clinical coursework.

(t) "Local anesthesia" is the temporary loss of sensation, such as pain, in the oral cavity, produced by an injected anesthetic agent without inducing loss of consciousness.

(u) "Mission" means an institution's stated educational reasons to exist. The mission shall have all of the following characteristics:

(1) It shall include the institution's goals concerning the education which students will receive, including the acquisition of the body of knowledge presented in the educational program, the development of intellectual, analytical, and critical abilities, and the fostering of values such as a commitment to pursue lifelong learning;

(2) It shall relate to the educational expectations of the institution's students and faculty and the community which the institution serves.

(v) "Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen" is an inhalation agent used to achieve analgesia.

(w) "Outcomes assessment" means an ongoing process aimed at improving student learning that includes a profile of measures evaluating the effectiveness of the program in meeting its goals and learning outcomes.

(x) "Preclinical instruction" means instruction in which students receive supervised experience using instructional materials to prepare them for clinical experiences to achieve safe and effective clinical outcomes. The instructor to student ratio shall meet approved accreditation standards.

(y) "Quarter" means at least ten (10) weeks of instruction.

(z) "Quarter unit" means at least ten (10) hours of college or university level instruction during a quarter plus a reasonable period of time outside of instruction which an institution requires a student to devote to preparation for planned learning experiences, such as preparation for instruction, study of course material, or completion of educational projects.

(aa) "Remedial education" means education designed to achieve competency required for initial, continuation, or reinstatement of licensure, and may be required for purposes of discipline. Remedial Education is the act or process of correcting a deficiency and its intent is to restore skills to competency.

(ab) "Semester" means at least fifteen (15) weeks of instruction.

(ac) "Semester unit" means at least fifteen (15) hours of college or university level instruction during a semester plus a reasonable period of time outside of instruction which an institution requires a student to devote to preparation for planned learning experiences, such as preparation for instruction, study of course material, or completion of educational projects.

(ad) "Service learning" is a teaching and learning experience that combines community service with academic preparation. Students engaged in service learning learn about their roles as dental professionals through provision of patient care and related services in response to community-based problems.

(ae) "Sponsoring institution" means an institution of higher education approved or who has applied for approval for a dental hygiene educational program. If the sponsoring institution has more than one campus, the campus where the physical location of the educational program exists shall be deemed the sponsoring institution.

(af) "Staff" means professional, technical, and clerical employees of the institution to support its educational program.

(ag) "Technology" means equipment, tools, and devices that are used to facilitate and support teaching and learning.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1917, Business and Professions Code.

## **§1105. Requirements for RDH Educational Programs.**

As of January 1, 2016, educational programs for registered dental hygienists shall comply with the requirements set forth below in order to secure and maintain approval by the Committee.

(a) Administration and Organization. There shall be a written mission statement that serves as a basis for curriculum structure. Such statement shall take into consideration the individual difference of students, including their cultural and ethnic background, learning styles, and support systems. It shall also take into consideration the concepts of dental hygiene, which must include the dental hygiene process of care, environment, health-illness continuum, and relevant knowledge from related disciplines.

(b) Instruction.

(1) Instruction upon all levels shall be conducted upon the premise that dental hygiene education must meet the test of a true university discipline and shall include lectures, laboratory experiments and exercises and clinical practice under supervision.

(2) For purposes of this section the term "university discipline" is a level of instruction at least equivalent to that level of instruction represented by college courses in the basic sciences commonly offered or accepted in approved California dental schools.

(3) The length of instruction in the educational program shall include two academic years of fulltime instruction at the postsecondary college level or its equivalent, and a minimum of 1,600 clock hours.

(4) The instructor to student ratio shall meet approved accreditation standards.

(5) Instruction involving procedures that require supervision by a dentist shall be supervised by a faculty dentist who possesses an active California license or special permit with no disciplinary actions.

(c) Standards of Competency. Each educational program shall establish and maintain standards of competency. Such standards shall be available to each student, and shall be used to measure periodic progress or achievement in the curriculum.

(d) The policies and procedures by which the educational program is administered shall be in writing, shall reflect the mission and goals of the program, and shall be available to all students.

(e) The educational program shall have a written plan for evaluation of all aspects of the program, including admission and selection policy and procedures, attrition and retention of students, curriculum management, patient care competencies, ethics and professionalism, critical thinking, and outcomes assessment.

(f) Admission.

(1) The minimum basis for admission into an educational program shall be the successful completion of all of the following:

(A) A high school diploma or the recognized equivalent, which will permit entrance to a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation; and,

(B) College-level general education courses in:

- (i). Oral and Written Communication
- (ii) Psychology
- (iii) Sociology
- (iv) Mathematics
- (v) Cultural Diversity\*
- (vi) Nutrition\*

\*This course is required prior to graduation, and may be waived as an admission requirement if included within the dental hygiene program curriculum.

(C) College-level biomedical science courses, each of which must include a laboratory component, in:

- (i) Anatomy
- (ii) Physiology
- (iii) Chemistry
- (iv) Biochemistry
- (v) Microbiology

(2) Admission of students shall be based on specific written criteria, procedures and policies. Previous academic performance and/or performance on standardized national tests of scholastic aptitude or other predictors of scholastic aptitude and ability shall be utilized as criteria in selecting students who have the potential for successfully completing the educational program. Applicants must be informed of the criteria and procedures for selection, goals of the program, curricular content, course transferability and the scope of practice of and employment opportunities for dental hygienists.

(g) The program shall have published student grievance policies.

(h) There shall be an organizational chart that identifies the relationships, lines of authority and channels of communication within the educational program, between the program and other administrative segments of the sponsoring institution, and between the program, the institution and extramural facilities and service learning sites.

(i) The educational program shall have learning resources, including faculty, library, staff and support services, technology and physical space and equipment, including laboratory and clinical facilities, to support the program's stated mission and goals and in accordance with accreditation standards.

(j) The educational program director shall have the primary responsibility for developing policies and procedures, planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating all aspects of the program.

(k) The number and distribution of faculty and staff shall be sufficient to meet the educational program's stated mission and goals.

(l) When an individual not employed in the educational program participates in the instruction and supervision of students obtaining educational experience, his or her responsibilities shall be described in writing and kept on file by the dental hygiene program.

(m) In a two-year college setting, graduates of the educational program must be awarded an associate degree, and in a four-year college or university, graduates must be awarded an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1941, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1105.1. Faculty.**

(a) "Program Director" means a registered dental hygienist or dentist who has the authority and responsibility to administer the educational program in accordance with accreditation standards. The director shall have a full-time appointment as defined by the institution, whose primary responsibility is for the operation, supervision, evaluation and revision of the program. The program director shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- (1) Possess an active, current dental or dental hygiene license issued by the Committee or the Dental Board of California (DBC), with no disciplinary actions;
- (2) Possess a master's or higher degree from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation that includes course work in dental hygiene, education, public health or administration;
- (3) Documentation of two (2) years' experience teaching in pre- or post-licensure registered dental hygiene programs; and
- (4) Documentation of a minimum of 2,000 hours in direct patient care as a registered dental hygienist, or working with a registered dental hygienist.

(b) "Program faculty" means an individual having a full-time or part-time agreement with the institution to instruct one or more of the courses in the educational program's curriculum. As required by the program, the individual shall be responsible for advising students, facilitating and evaluating student progress in learning and clinical outcomes and providing didactic or clinical instruction. The individual shall hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and possess the following:

- (1) An active California dental or dental hygiene license or special permit with no disciplinary actions; or
- (2) A credential generally recognized in the field of instruction; or
- (3) A degree, professional license, or credential at least equivalent to the level of instruction being taught or evaluated.
- (4) All program faculty shall have documented background in educational methodology every two years, consistent with teaching assignments.

(c) Clinical teaching faculty shall have direct patient care experience within the previous five (5) years in the dental hygiene area to which he or she is assigned, which can be met by either:

(1) Two (2) years experience providing direct patient care as a registered dental hygienist or dentist; or

(2) One (1) academic year of registered dental hygienist level clinical teaching experience or its equivalent.

(d) Didactic teaching faculty shall possess the following minimum qualifications:

(1) A bachelor's degree or higher from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation, in the designated dental hygiene area; or

(2) Current knowledge of the specific subjects taught, which can be met by either:

(A) Possessing a degree, professional license or credential at least equivalent to the level of education being taught or evaluated; or

(B) Having completed twelve (12) hours of continuing education in the designated subject area; or

(C) Two (2) semester units or three (3) quarter units of dental hygiene education related to the designated dental hygiene area; or have national certification in the designated dental hygiene area.

(e) Faculty Responsibilities.

(1) Each faculty member shall assume responsibility and accountability for instruction, evaluation of students, and planning and implementing curriculum content as required by the educational program.

(2) Each faculty member shall participate in an orientation prior to teaching, including, but not limited to, the educational program's curriculum, policies and procedures, strategies for teaching, and student supervision and evaluation.

(2) Each faculty member shall be competent in the area in which he or she teaches.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1941, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1105.2. Required Curriculum.**

(a) The curriculum of an educational program shall meet the requirements of this section.

(b) The curriculum shall include education in the dental hygiene process of care and shall define the competencies graduates are to possess at graduation, describing (1) the desired combination of foundational knowledge, psychomotor skills, communication skills, and professional behaviors and values required, (2) the standards used to measure the students' independent performance in each area, and (3) the evaluation mechanisms by which competence is determined.

(c) The organization of the curriculum shall create opportunities for adjustments to and research of, advances in the practice of dental hygiene to ensure that graduates will have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to function within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

(d) The content of the curriculum shall include biomedical and dental sciences and dental hygiene sciences and practice. This content shall be of sufficient depth, scope, sequence of instruction, quality and emphasis to ensure achievement of the educational program's standard of competency.

**(1) Biomedical and Dental Sciences Content**

- (A) Cariology
- (B) Dental Materials
- (C) General Pathology and/or Pathophysiology
- (D) Head, Neck and Oral Anatomy
- (E) Immunology
- (F) Oral Embryology and Histology
- (G) Oral Pathology
- (H) Pain management
- (I) Periodontology
- (J) Pharmacology
- (K) Radiography
- (L) Dental Anatomy and Morphology

**(2) Dental Hygiene Sciences and Practice Content**

- (A) Community Dental Health
- (B) Dental Hygiene Leadership
- (C) Evidence-based Decision Making and Evidence-based Practice
- (D) Health Informatics
- (E) Health Promotion
- (F) Infection and Hazard Control Management
- (G) Legal and Ethical Aspects of Dental Hygiene Practice
- (H) Medical and Dental Emergencies
- (I) Oral Health Education and Preventive Counseling
- (J) Patient Management
- (K) Preclinical and Clinical Dental Hygiene
- (L) Provision of Services for and Management of Patients with Special Needs
- (M) Research

(3) Approved educational programs shall, at a minimum, specifically include instruction in local anesthesia, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and periodontal soft tissue curettage in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision.

(A) An educational program shall provide infection control equipment according to the requirements of CCR Title 16, Division 10, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 1005.

(B) An educational program shall provide at least one complete nitrous oxide-oxygen unit for each six (6) students enrolled in the course and shall include a fail-safe flowmeter, functional scavenger system and disposable or sterilizable nasal hoods for each laboratory partner or patient. All tubing, hoses and reservoir bags shall be maintained and replaced at regular intervals to prevent leakage of gases. When not attached to a nitrous oxide-oxygen unit, all gas

cylinders shall be maintained in an upright position, secured with a chain or in a cart designed for storage of gas cylinders.

(C) An educational program shall comply with local, state, and federal health and safety laws and regulations.

(i) All students shall have access to the program's hazardous waste management plan for the disposal of needles, cartridges, medical waste and storage of oxygen and nitrous oxide tanks.

(ii) All students shall have access to the program's clinic and radiation hazardous communication plan.

(iii) All students shall receive a copy of the program's bloodborne and infectious diseases exposure control plan, which shall include emergency needlestick information.

(D) General Curriculum Content. Areas of didactic, preclinical and clinical instruction shall include:

(i) Indications and contraindications for all patients of:

1. periodontal soft tissue curettage;
2. administration and reversal of local anesthetic agents;
3. nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia agents

(ii) Head and neck anatomy;

(iii) Physical and psychological evaluation procedures;

(iv) Review of body systems related to course topics;

(v) Theory and psychological aspects of pain and anxiety control;

(vi) Selection of pain control modalities;

(vii) Pharmacological considerations such as action of anesthetics and vasoconstrictors, local anesthetic reversal agents and nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia;

(viii) Recovery from and post-procedure evaluation of periodontal soft tissue curettage, local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia;

(ix) Complications and management of periodontal soft tissue curettage, local anesthesia and nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia emergencies;

(x) Armamentarium required and current technology available for local anesthesia, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and periodontal soft tissue curettage;

(xi) Techniques of administration of maxillary and mandibular local infiltrations, field blocks and nerve blocks, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and performance of periodontal soft tissue curettage;

(xii) Proper infection control procedures according to the provisions of Title 16, Division 10, Chapter 1, Article 4, Section 1005 of the California Code of Regulations;

(xiii) Patient documentation that meets the standard of care, including, but not limited to, computation of maximum recommended dosages for local anesthetics and the tidal volume, percentage and amount of the gases and duration of administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia;

(xiv) Medical and legal considerations including patient consent, standard of care, and patient privacy.

(E) Specific Curriculum Content.

(i) Local anesthetic agents curriculum must include at least thirty (30) hours of instruction, including at least fifteen (15) hours of didactic and preclinical instruction and at least fifteen (15) hours of clinical instruction. Preclinical instruction shall include a minimum of two (2) experiences per injection, which may be on another student. Clinical instruction shall include at least four (4) clinical experiences per injection on four different patients, of which only one may be on another student. Curriculum must include maxillary and mandibular anesthesia techniques for local infiltration, field block and nerve block to include anterior superior alveolar (ASA) nerve block (infraorbital), middle superior alveolar nerve block (MSA), anterior middle superior alveolar nerve block (AMSA), posterior superior alveolar nerve block (PSA), greater palatine nerve block, nasopalatine (P-ASA) nerve block, supraperiosteal, inferior alveolar nerve block (to include Gow-Gates technique), lingual nerve block, buccal nerve block, mental nerve block, incisive nerve block and intraseptal injections. One clinical experience per injection shall be used to determine clinical competency. The competency evaluation for each injection and technique must be achieved at a minimum of 75%.

(ii) Nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia curriculum must include at least eight (8) hours of instruction, including at least four (4) hours of didactic and preclinical instruction and at least four (4) hours of clinical instruction. This includes at least two (2) preclinical experiences on patients, both of which may be on another student, and at least three (3) clinical experiences on patients, of which only one may be on another student and one of which will be used to determine clinical competency. Each clinical experience shall include the performance of a dental hygiene procedure while administering at least twenty (20) minutes of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia. The competency evaluation must be achieved at a minimum of 75%.

(iii) Periodontal soft tissue curettage curriculum must include at least six (6) hours of instruction, including at least three (3) hours of didactic and preclinical instruction and at least three (3) hours of clinical instruction. Education may include use of a laser approved for soft tissue curettage. This includes at least three (3) clinical experiences on patients, of which only one may be on another student and one of which will be used to determine clinical competency. The competency evaluation for this procedure must be achieved at a minimum of 75%.

Out-of-state dental hygiene programs that are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or an approved accrediting body and who provide instruction according to this subdivision may be approved by the Committee to meet the requirements set forth in Business and Professions Code section 1909.

### **§ 1105.3. Changes to an Approved Program.**

- (a) Each dental hygiene program holding a certificate of approval shall:
- (1) File its legal name and current mailing address with the Committee at its principal office and shall notify the Committee at said office of any change of name or mailing address within thirty (30) days prior to such change. It shall give both the old and the new name or address.
  - (2) Notify the Committee within ten (10) days of any:
    - (A) Change in fiscal condition that will or may potentially adversely affect applicants or students enrolled in the dental hygiene program.
    - (B) Substantive or major change in the organizational structure, administrative responsibility, or accountability in the dental hygiene program, the institution of higher education in which the dental hygiene program is located or with which it is affiliated that will affect the dental hygiene program.
    - (C) Increase or decrease in program enrollment of more than 10%.
    - (D) Reduction in program faculty or support staff of more than 10%.
- (b) An approved dental hygiene program shall not make a substantive change without prior Committee approval. These changes include:
- (1) Change in location, ownership or educational program expansion through an additional campus or distance education.
  - (2) Expansion, reduction or elimination of the program's physical facilities.
  - (3) Any changes that require a report to the Commission on Dental Accreditation or equivalent accrediting body shall require approval from the Committee.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1105.4. Appeals Process.**

- (a) The Committee may deny or withdraw its approval of an educational program. If the Committee denies or withdraws approval of a program, the reasons for withdrawal or denial will be provided in writing within ninety (90) days.
- (b) Any educational program whose approval is denied or withdrawn shall be granted an informal conference before the Executive Officer or his or her designee prior to the effective date of such action. The educational program shall be given at least ten days' notice of the time and place of such informal conference and the specific grounds for the proposed action.
- (c) The educational program may contest the denial or withdrawal of approval by either:

(1) Appearing at the informal conference. The Executive Officer shall notify the educational program of the final decision of the Executive Officer within ten days of the informal conference. Based on the outcome of the informal conference, the program may then request a hearing to contest the Executive Officer's final decision. An educational program or program applicant shall request a hearing by written notice to the Committee within 30 calendar days of the postmark date of the letter of the Executive Officer's final decision after the informal conference. Hearings shall be held pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Or;

(3) Notifying the Committee in writing the program's election to forego the informal conference and to proceed with a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Such notification shall be made to the Committee before the date of the informal conference.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1941, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1106. Radiation Safety Certificate.**

(a) Certificates. A certificate may be issued by an approved California dental hygiene program to their dental hygiene student or graduate who successfully completes the radiation safety course as part of the student's curriculum. A dental hygiene student or graduate shall be deemed to have successfully completed the course if the student has met all the course requirements and has obtained passing scores on both written and clinical examinations that includes theory and clinical application in radiographic techniques.

(b) A dental hygiene student or graduate who has received certification from an educational program approved the Committee shall be allowed to operate dental radiographic equipment, including the determination of radiographs, for the purpose of oral radiography.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1905 , 1905.5(m), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code; and Section 106975, Health and Safety Code.