

**DENTAL HYGIENE** 

## 1. Program or Unit Description

### **Program or Unit Mission or Purpose Statement**

The **Dental Hygiene** Associate in Science Program is a two-year program (upon admission to the Dental Hygiene Program) that prepares students to become oral health care professionals whose work will positively impact the oral health status of Maui County and the neighbor islands.

The mission of the Dental Hygiene program is to prepare students for careers in Dental Hygiene with three major emphases:

- Provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to clients of diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds. This PLO was assessed in the year of this Annual Review. Results and changes are discussed in Section 3. Outcomes.
- Demonstrate the academic and clinical knowledge and skills required for the profession of dental hygiene.
- Providing lifelong learning opportunities for Hawai'i's workforce that is designed to improve workforce skills and career progression.

#### What is the target student or service population?

The Dental Hygiene Program trains students upon graduation to practice their discipline at industry ready standards as licensed professionals. This career is highly sought after because of high wages, job availability, and career advancement. Qualified Hawai'i residents have priority, there are many benefits to having a student/graduate who will serve in the communities in which they live and work. They understand the diversity of each community and can adapt best practices specific to the needs of the population.

## 2. Analysis of the Program/Unit

https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/varpd/

Overall Program Health: Cautionary

Response to the Demand Indicator- "Cautionary/Progressing" quantitative indicator

**Demand Indicators:** Regarding line 2; The demand data presented does not support the actual new positions data. For the last twelve years, all dental hygiene graduates have been placed. All graduates are currently employed. (Employer and Graduate surveys available for review)

The Dental Hygiene Program admits one class every other academic year, 2021 was a degree granting year. Fifteen students graduated in May of 2021. Only DH majors are allowed in Program courses. The program began in 2008, since 2008 through May 2021, the program began with 10

students enrolled, beginning the fall 2015, 15 students were admitted, 20 students were admitted in the fall of 2021, the increase in students was due to an increased number of dentists seeking employment of dental hygienists.

# 3. Program Student Learning Outcomes or Unit/Service Outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate their cumulative knowledge and skill by successfully passing both written and clinical dental hygiene examinations.
- 2. Provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to promote patient health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidence-based practice.
- 3. Provide accurate, consistent, and complete documentation for assessment, and evaluation of dental hygiene services.

PLO assessed in the year of this Annual Review.

Provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to clients of diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds.

Eighteen of the twenty DH courses as well as the prerequisites & general education courses (79) were used to determined that all twenty students have the knowledge and skills to:

"Provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to clients of diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds." (PLO Outcome assessed in 2022)

For the PLO assessed, 100 % of students completing the assignment/course expected to meet expectations for the assignment/course.

### Results of PLO Assessment

After each semester is completed, the lecturers (7) and myself meet to discuss strategies for program improvement. Since the inception of the program in 2008, all students admitted have graduated with the exception of two students who stopped out for personal reasons. To date, the program has graduated 70 students who are all working as licensed dental hygienists.

The change, implemented in the fall of 2021 to separate the lecture from clinical/labs courses is working well. The change makes it easier for students and instructors to clearly understand and assess the didactic and clinical progress of each student more accurately.

In summary, the benchmarks for a successful program should be measured by; do students graduate, are they successful with external examinations and are they able to secure positions for which they received training. Is their salary sufficient to support themselves and or their families?

I believe the DH program has provided sufficient evidence of the worth of the program. The students and community are very grateful we have the program at UHMC.

### 4. Action Plan

The Program/Student Learning outcomes described above is used as a foundation for all actions initiated by the program. Keeping up with evidence-based practice, including current learning pedagogy, including preparing students to be industry ready upon graduating are two important benchmarks the program strives to attain. Because the program admits one class of students every other academic year, the courses as laid out in the program map, are only offered once in each cohort. The first year of the program sets the foundation for effective dental hygiene practice. It focuses on the dental hygiene sciences as well as assessment procedures for thorough and accurate care of each patient. The curriculum is thus based on higher learning; the sequence of courses has in the past produced successful student results. It is prudent for the program to evaluate the process of curriculum design and review maintenance of the current curriculum. Are student experiences with the curriculum providing what is needed for each individual student to engage as well as become proficient professionals? Are the use of online platforms working as well as they need to be? Is it time to consider increasing the program's capacity by admitting a class every academic year? As the program continues to evolve, these questions and additional ones will arrive as well as answers.

## **Resource Implications**

The dental hygiene program relies on grants to facilitate the no-fee for service clinic. The grant also covers most of the lecturer costs. The Hawaii Dental Association Foundation (HDAF) awarded a \$100,000.00 grant for AY 2021-2022. To date the (HDAF) has awarded \$399,000 (2016-\$75,000.00 2018-\$65,000.00, 2019-\$59,000, 2020-\$100,000 & 2021-\$100,000) also the Freeman Foundation awarded \$100,000.00 for AY 2021-2022 to help support the dental hygiene program students as well as to serve the many Community needs, especially for the poor, underserved, unsheltered populations.

In addition, professional fees paid by each student, \$500.00 per semester is used for student supplies; PPE, instruments, clinic maintenance etc.

**✓** I am NOT requesting additional resources for my program/unit.