

Dental Hygiene



ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRAM DATA **2021**



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII® MAUI COLLEGE

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.
- 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.

The dental industry requires dental hygienists to be licensed as dental hygienists in the State of Hawaii. Graduates are eligible to apply for licensure. One of the stated requirements with the Board of Dental Examiners who issues the licensure, "Be a graduate of a dental hygiene school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. ATTACH a copy of diploma or certificate of graduation or an official transcript verifying your degree."

[REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS FOR LICENSE - DENTAL HYGIENIST](#)

Since the inception of the program in 2008, 71 students have been admitted. As of September 2021, 70 students are fully licensed and practicing dental hygiene.

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.

UHMC DH graduates with baccalaureate goals are eligible for the UHWO BA in Public Administration - Health Administration concentration.

[MAU AS Dental Hygiene to PUBA HCAD Fall 21.pdf](#)

The program is known for its smaller class size, one-on-one training and compassionate faculty & staff. The faculty and students represent (as much of Hawaii does) a range of ethnic & gender diversity. As mentors, students see that most of the faculty are born and raised in Hawaii, they understand how possible it is to succeed in the profession.

2. Analysis of the Program/Unit

Demand Indicators: Needs Attention Insufficient Data County Level

The career explorer link used as the metric looks specifically at Maui.

Prorating the labor data may not be accurate because many Hawaii residents relocate for work on any of our islands. In addition, the data does not account for other degree/certificate granting institutions when we look at workforce output, some live and work on different islands.

Also important, just because graduates outnumber annual openings, graduates still find work in many occupations due to the rate of attrition, many may not be advertised in the traditional methods. Movement opens up positions to the most qualified.

For the last fourteen years, all dental hygiene graduates (70) have been placed. All graduates are currently employed. (Employer and Graduate surveys available for review)

Efficiency Indicators: Healthy

Effectiveness Indicators: Healthy

<https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/varpd/index.php?y=2021&c=MAU&t=CTE&p=2407>

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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.

The Program has assessed **Program Student Learning Outcome #1 (Demonstrate their cumulative knowledge and skill by successfully passing both written and clinical dental hygiene examinations.)**

Assessment Results.

- All fifteen students were successful on the first attempt on The Commission of Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) Examination. (Clinical dental hygiene exam) APR 2021
- Fourteen students were successful one the first attempt (one student was successful on the second attempt on The National Dental Hygiene Board Examination. (NDHBE) Written Examination
- Both the NDHBE & CDCA Examinations, as well as graduating from an Accredited DH program are requirements for obtaining licensure to practice.

2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Total	Graduation/ Licensure Rate
9	10	10	11	15	15	70	100%

The Dental Hygiene Program admits one class every other academic year. The program began in 2009, since 2009 through May 2017, there have been 10 students enrolled, beginning in the f2020, 20 students were admitted due to an increased number of dentists seeking employment of dental hygienists here on Maui and neighboring islands. For many years the program has worked with the neighboring dental communities (especially the islands that have an extreme shortage of dental hygienists) to send qualified candidates to train on Maui and the likelihood that they will return to

their homes is extremely high. The current class has 6 students from the Big Island & 1 from Molokai.

The program also assessed the **core competency of critical thinking** in spring of 21.

- Utilizing data from the External Examinations Results (ADEX CDCA-clinical exam, NBDHE-written exam), graduation rates and job placement, the DH program continues to report 100% rates in all categories.

Evidence of assessment	Results are presented in Annual Program Reviews, Annual Survey of Dental Hygiene Education Programs of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA CODA) ADA CODA 2021 Annual Survey
Assessment Outcomes	DIRECT OUTCOMES: Program-Specific Outcomes and Attributes Desired of Program Graduates (Student Policy Manual) page 7 Student Policy Manual 2021-2023 UHMC DH Assessment Plan Program Assessment Plan[1] DENTAL HYGIENE OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT- Key Competencies Measure For Students Program Assessment Outcomes

In July of 2020, the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND E) transitioned to a validated, reduced-length form of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE), to help address a backlog of candidates who were unable to test due to the pandemic.

Although the shortened versions of the NBDHE have been subject to thorough psychometric investigation and presented strong validity and reliability evidence to support usage of these reduced-length examination forms, it was documented that candidates had a higher failure rate.

To address this concern, the program offered additional remediation sessions.

Given updated conditions, the NBDHE will begin transitioning to the standard-length version of the NBDHE on October 8, 2021.

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 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, courses set

up the foundation for effective dental hygiene practice. It focuses on the DH 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? The process of evaluation /assessment is dynamic and must be ongoing.

Perkins Core Indicators did achieve performance level.

5. 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) 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 etc.

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

6. Optional: Edits to Occupation List for Instructional Programs

I am requesting changes to the SOC codes/occupations listed for my program/unit.

The program will be more accurately aligned by incorporating both;

- 29-1292 [Dental Hygienist](#)
- 31-9091 [Dental Assistants](#)

Both seem to appear in close proximity when looking at job postings.

https://careerexplorer.hawaii.edu/skills/search_skill.php?t=light&s=Dental%20Hygienist

Because the county of Maui had insufficient data for SOC Code 29-1292, demand could not be calculated. Prorating the labor data may not be accurate considering many Hawaii residents

relocate for work on any of our islands. In addition, we do not account for other degree/certificate granting institutions when we look at workforce output. Many people live and work on different islands.

In summary

- The program has been successful at meeting the needs of the students and community. The longevity of the program is dependent on fulfilling industry demand.
- The current method of admitting one cohort of students appears to be sufficient, all graduates are successful at securing employment.
- The program relies on the Dental Advisory Board and instructors (who all practice dentistry & or dental hygiene) to help determine what skills and technology are necessary for our students to learn to be successful upon graduation as well as entering the workforce.
- The program has one BOR appointed 11 month faculty member. The second faculty position request has appeared in previous years, due to the budget crisis and position freezes, the request was suspended. The suspension should not be viewed as the second position not being necessary. The coordination of the program, ADA CODA accreditation, active community involvement, securing grants to maintain the no fee for service clinic as well as executing all aspects of maintaining the clinic, clearly supports the need for the second faculty position.
- The program has submitted adequate evidence to confirm it's success.
- Current data (UHCC Modality Survey) 100 % of health science students overwhelmingly prefer f2f delivery.

[UHMC Health Science student survey](#)

- The program will continue discussing a future which may include some of the lecture portions of the curriculum to be offered online or utilizing a hybrid modality.
- The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [and has been granted the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements”]. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>

Site Visit, 2026.