

Dental Assisting Program Review Committee Report

February 1, 2008

Committee Members: Joyce Yamada, DA Program Coordinator, Maggie Bruck, Allied Health Academic Counselor, Katie McMillian, Executive Committee Representative

The committee members reviewed the document and the letter from Suzette Robinson.

Response to Recommendations from Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Suzette Robinson

1. Address the issue of declining majors and average class size.

The follow factors were identified as contributing to the decrease. Actions are listed in italics below each factor.

- a. Delay in BOR approval of the Dental Hygiene (DH) portion of the Career Ladder, which created an uncertainty in the community.
BOR approval of the program and projected start date should resolve these concerns.

AH Counselor Maggie Bruck and DA Program Coordinator Joyce Yamada are developing admission information and admission criteria to be distributed to applicants as soon as the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADACODA) confirms pre-enrollment site visit date. Goal is fall 2008 visit to allow admission 1/2009.

- b. Dental Assisting (DA) is an expensive program (students must purchase supplies \$700/yr) and because DA is a certificate program limited financial aid is available.
Career Ladder DA/DH is an Associate in Science degree so beginning fall 2008 students will qualify for financial aid all four years (see attached memo from Cathy Bio, Financial Aid officer).

- c. MCC Nursing Program doubled admissions in 1/2007 and 8/2007. Many students who in previous semesters would have chosen Dental Assisting as a second choice were admitted to the Nursing Program.
Work with Nursing Program Coordinator to be certain that information on DA/DH is included in letters to student who are not admitted to the Nursing Program.

- d. Recruitment for the Dental Assisting class may have been disrupted during Spring 2007.
New DA program Coordinator Joyce Yamada and AH Academic Counselor Maggie Bruck have created a new DA brochure and are participating in multiple high school and community activities to enhance recruitment. They are also planning on recruiting visits to Oahu and Big Island during spring semester to do statewide recruiting. One goal will be to clearly differentiate between MCC's accredited DA/DH Career Ladder program and other dental assistant programs in the state.

Joyce Yamada, Nancy Johnson, and DA graduate Christie Pascua will visit all BIO 100 (primary prerequisite) classes Spring 2008 to be certain students know about the DA/DH Career Ladder Program.

- e. There is a need to clarify residency criteria for DA/DH Program. There are many non-residents interested in the program, which may be considered “high demand” according to BOR criteria.

Ruling on residence issues will be sought from VC for Academic Affairs and Registrar (see attached memo on residency.)

- f. Dental Assisting salaries in the community are estimated to range from \$10-\$15/hour. These salaries may be a deterrent for some students entering the program especially when compared to nurse aide salaries that begin at \$15/hr for a 6 credit course.

This issue will be discussed at the next Dental Advisory Committee Meeting and dentists will be surveyed to determine what the current salaries and if there is a differential for Certified Dental Assistants.

2. Include program actions or goals for next year.

Dental Assisting Program Goals 2008/09:

- a. Retrofit x-ray units to digital (3 of 4 units)
- b. Purchase instrument sets of all procedures and two more suctioning and radiology manikins
- c. Maintain class of 18 students (this is appropriate due to 6:1 ADACODA student faculty ratio)
- d. Provide adequate parking to accommodate program and clinic
- e. Enriching Clinical Experiences- rotation to off campus facilities such as V.A. Clinic, Hale Makua, Kula Hospital, etc.
- g. Purchase computers for each of the operatories to obtain patient records, digital radiography, etc.

3. Speak to the financial health and stability of the program.

The financial health of the program is tied to the stability of the Maui Oral Health Center and Mobile Dental van budgets. The follow factors have resulted in significant improvement.

- a. Addition of Staff Dentist to increase production
- b. Three dental residents to increase production
- c. Funding of adult dental benefits by Medicaid
- d. Support from County of Maui for facilities (the program was assured of the Mayor's support for continuation of this in the 2009 County budget).
- e. Funding from Medicaid Administration Fund in the Oral Health Initiative grant support both the DA and DH program.

Based on the above response to questions from Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs the Program Review Team evaluation is that the program has:

1. Met its goals of:

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of dental assistant roles including the legal, professional, and ethical responsibilities within the community.
- b. Demonstrate basic theoretical knowledge and skills in biological science, dental radiology, chairside dental assisting, and business office procedures to support dental assisting practice and build the foundation for an associate degree dental hygiene program.
- c. Demonstrate a commitment to life long learning and advancing competency over a lifetime of clinical practice.

2. Addressed areas of weakness:

DA program and Allied Health Department faculty have addressed issues and developed an effective plan for future enrollments.

Residency questions for DA/DH Career Ladder Program

We believe that we need to handle this differently than the nursing program because, we currently have fewer applicants for dental assisting.

Would it be possible to admit all applicants (residents and non residents) to the Dental Assisting Program, at this time, but restrict the admission to the Dental Hygiene Program to “qualified Hawaii residents admitted first?” The rationale for this is we expect DH to be an “impacted health program.”

Maggie and I are discussing how to handle this:

We see our choices as:

1. Dental Assisting-accept all applicants at this time
Dental Hygiene-consider it an impacted health program, admit qualified Hawaii residents first.
Suzette favors this option, we are awaiting the Registrar’s review when he returns from vacation.
2. Treat the DA/DH as a Career Ladder Program and have the restriction to “qualified Hawaii residents first” for both levels.

Note:

Currently the DA program is not fully enrolled.

From	Cathy Bio <cbio@hawaii.edu>
Sent	Friday, February 1, 2008 4:01 pm
To	Nancy K Johnson <nancyjoh@hawaii.edu>
Cc	Alvin Tagomori <atag@hawaii.edu> , Kilohana E Miller <kilohana@hawaii.edu> , Ashlie K DeCambra <ashlie@hawaii.edu> , cathy bio <cbio@hawaii.edu>
Subject	Financial Aid - AS Dental

Nancy,

Just to confirm our discussion regarding the new AS in Dental Hygiene:

New students interested in the program will be entered into Banner as Liberal Arts major.

Once students are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program, their major in Banner will be updated accordingly (coordinated between Allied Health and Admissions & Records).

If students progress towards their degree in this manner, they will qualify for their full financial aid package. If students are entered into Banner as pursuing a CA in Dental as their primary major, they may receive less financial aid (pro rated Pell grant).

Students who are accepted into the AS Dental Hygiene program in Fall 2008 may need to be reflected as a Liberal Arts major in Banner in order to receive aid since your accreditation team will be visiting in Spring 2009. I will keep you posted on this matter.

If you need anything else, please let me know.