

# Virginia Western Community College

## DNH 230

### Ethics

**Prerequisites:**

Successful completion of previous four semesters of Dental Hygiene curriculum.

**Course Description:**

Studies the principles of dental ethics and economics as they relate to the dental hygienist. The course also includes a study of jurisprudence and office procedures.

**Semester Credits: 1****Lecture Hours: 1****Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0****Required Materials****Textbook:**

None

**Other Materials:**

Both the student and instructor in this course will utilize the following resources:

- Rules and Regulations for the Practice of Dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia
- ADHA and VDHA Policy Manuals, ADHA Code of Ethics
- Internet Resources

**Course Outcomes**

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Define ethics and relate ethical conduct to the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene.
- Identify the dental hygienist's legal responsibilities to the public and to clients.
- Identify the dental hygienist's ethical responsibilities to the profession, to self, to peers, and to the community.
- Discuss current issues and controversies influencing upon the profession of dental hygiene in Virginia and across the US.
- Identify personal values regarding the practice of dental hygiene and relate those values to a personal philosophy statement.
- Recognize rights and responsibilities of employees in the workplace as mandated by state and federal legislation.

- Prepare a resume and cover letter in preparation for entry into practice.
- Review the process and procedures for licensure eligibility via regional and state examinations.

## **Topical Description**

### **Unit 1:**

- Course Introduction
- Ethics and Professionalism
- Ethical Theory and Philosophy
- Ethical Principles and Values
- Codes of Ethics
- Ethical Decision Making in Dental Hygiene and Dentistry

### **Unit 2:**

- Society and the State Dental Practice Act
- Role of the BOD and Legislature in Statutory and Regulatory Matters
- Dental Hygienist-Patient Relationship
- Components of Informed Consent
- Dental Hygienist-Dentist/Employer Relationship

### **Unit 3:**

- Marketing Yourself
- Identifying What You Want in the Workplace
- Legal Considerations for Employees and Employers
- Designing Resumes; Interview Skills
- Interacting Effectively in the Employment Setting
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

### **Unit 4:**

- Rules and Regulations for the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the Commonwealth
- Mock Jurisprudence Exam

## **Course Objectives**

- Differentiate between values, mores, and ethics.
- Identify the influence of society and family on the formation of values, mores and ethics.
- Discuss the concept of core values and relate this concept to the formulation of professional ethics.
- Discuss the relationship of the Code of Ethics to your personal philosophy of dental hygiene practice.
- Differentiate between legal and ethical responsibilities.
- Identify the responsibilities of the health practitioner to the client/patient.
- Identify the responsibilities of the client/patient once treatment has been agreed upon and initiated.
- Identify elements of informed consent.
- Identify your personal philosophy of dental hygiene practice through preparation of a written philosophy statement.
- Verbalize the elements of importance to you in seeking an employment setting.
- Discuss the importance of written employment agreements and the impact of employment agreements for employer and employee.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop a cover letter, employment objective, and resume reflective of your education, experience, and skills in preparation for the job market.
- Identify elements of a successful interview.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the legal rights and protections afforded to employers and employees because of federal and state regulations.
- Recognize the value of assertiveness skills and negotiation in securing and maintaining a satisfying employment position.
- Recognize and discuss the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and role delineation in private practice and other employment settings.
- Identify employee benefits, which are necessary and/or desirable.
- Identify various retirement and investment opportunities available to you to assist in securing your future.
- Discuss the significance of personal malpractice insurance and disability insurance to protect yourself as a practitioner.
- Describe the mechanisms for formulating laws and regulations governing the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in Virginia.
- Describe the legislative process in Virginia, and discuss the role of the dental hygienist as an advocate for oral health in that process.
- Describe the composition and the role of the Virginia Board of Dentistry.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the statutes and regulations governing the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in Virginia as demonstrated by satisfactory performance on a mock jurisprudence test.

- Describe the process and procedures necessary for obtaining a license to practice dental hygiene in Virginia.
- Differentiate between direct and general supervision.
- Describe the structure of the American Dental Hygienists' Association at the national, state, and local levels.
- Discuss the significance of professional organizations on professional development, collegial relationships, and socialization to the profession, the educational process, and advocacy for the profession.
- Recognize your personal responsibility to the dental hygiene profession through active involvement in professional activities and life-long learning experiences.

### **Note to Instructors**