

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:**

No textbook needed. The following resources will be utilized by both the student and instructor in this course:

Other Required Materials:

1. Rules and Regulations for the Practice of Dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia
2. Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia
3. ADHA and VDHA Policy Manuals, ADHA Code of Ethics
4. 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 impacting 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 – WEEKS 1-4

- A. Course Introduction
- B. Ethics and Professionalism
- C. Ethical Theory and Philosophy
- D. Ethical Principles and Values
- E. Codes of Ethics
- F. Ethical Decision Making in Dental Hygiene and Dentistry

UNIT 2 – WEEKS 5-7

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

UNIT 3 – WEEKS 8-10

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

UNIT 4 – WEEKS 11-16

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

Notes to Instructors

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