

Faculty Response Commission on Dental Accreditation, site visit: September 20-21, 2017, confirmation of Accreditation with no reporting requirements, February 1, 2018.

Seven Year Program Review, Weber State University Dental Hygiene Program

Weber State Dental Hygiene Program has been continuously accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation since its inception in 1975. Recommendations for changes have been presented at times. However, with the program's longevity and its core faculty experience, compliance with all Accreditation Standards have been confirmed. The program was developed through a cooperative grant process (1975) with the Department of Veteran's Affairs Dental Clinic to provide an additional clinical experience for the students to provide dental hygiene treatment for the veterans. Ogden area community sites including Midtown Community Health Center Dental Clinic and Ogden Weber Community Action Program Head Start have strengthened the program's presence in the community and the students' experiences in the community.

The Program administration and faculty focuses on the overall mission, goals and strategic plan of the college and university. The Dental Hygiene Department is supported in the university themes defined in the values and mission that include teaching, patient care (in the dental hygiene, specifically, and health care, generally) and in research and community service outreach. The annual assessment of program goals and outcomes reported to the DCHP Dean for the Annual report to the Administration has allowed for a systematic feedback loop for improvements and changes. The Dental Hygiene Program is responsible for curriculum development and revisions and is organized to encompass specific learning outcomes that are aligned with appropriate assessments. The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) requires an annual survey that addresses specific Accreditation standards to assure ongoing compliance.

Considering the history of the site visit recommendations in 2010, it was stated that the program is in compliance policies. As the Standards evolve relative to environmental changes in teaching and learning, technologies, tracking of patient treatment and students' competencies, to name a few, there were recommendations for the program at that time.

- The recommendation for the program to monitor student's patient treatment experiences with special needs patients and assuring competence in treating a wide variety of patients with special needs. While being mindful of patient privacy (HIPPA), it was determined that patient treatment needs would be tracked as defined in the WSU Dental Hygiene Clinic Manual. The student notes on their clinical evaluation form that the patient met the criteria as a special needs patient and the supervising clinical faculty approves that designation.
- It was recommended that the laboratory sessions in all of the dental science courses was not to exceed one faculty to ten students. To meet and sustain the recommendation of the 1:10 ratio, faculty were reassigned to a team of two faculty teaching in laboratory sessions, resulting 1:8 ratio of faculty to students.
- It was recommended that the program have a formal written patient care quality assurance plan. The plan was formalized with a schedule for patient chart reviews, a reporting system for each chart reviewed and remediation plan for any deficiencies. The findings of the quality assurance program is discussed in faculty meetings with reports kept on file in the clinic.

At the most recent formal site visit, the Site Visitors stated that recommendations from previous reviews were found to be in compliance. There were no recommendations for the Dental Hygiene Program at the most recent Accreditation review.

The Dental Hygiene Program demonstrates that for every student and graduate, the program's mission and goals are defined with a curriculum that supports achievement of those goals. With annual systematic review of the program by faculty and college administration assurances are in place and are practiced to confirm appropriate evidence of student learning. It has been demonstrated through ongoing outcomes that the graduates of the dental hygiene program are prepared to enter the profession of dental hygiene and to advance in their careers, as desired.