

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

On August 8, 2025, CODA adopted an amendment of the intent statements and examples of evidence of Dental Hygiene Standard 1-2 related to diversity of faculty, staff, and students. Note that these Standards' "must" statements remain in effect. CODA further adopted a revision to Standard 3-6c, related to faculty credentials, of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs, with immediate implementation.

Additions are Underlined
~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate Deletions

Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs

1 STANDARD 1 - INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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3 1-2 The program must have a stated commitment to a humanistic culture and learning
4 environment that is regularly evaluated.
5

6 **Intent:**

7 *The program should ensure collaboration, mutual respect, cooperation, and harmonious*
8 *relationships between and among administrators, faculty, students, staff, and alumni. The*
9 *program should also support and cultivate the development of professionalism and ethical*
10 *behavior ~~by fostering diversity of faculty, students, and staff, open communication,~~*
11 *~~leadership, and scholarship.~~*
12

13 **Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

- 14 • Established policies regarding ethical behavior by faculty, staff and students that are
15 regularly reviewed and readily available
16 • Student, faculty, and patient groups involved in promoting ~~diversity~~, professionalism
17 and/or leadership support for their activities
18 • Focus groups and/or surveys directed towards gathering information on student, faculty,
19 patient, and alumni perceptions of the cultural environment
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STANDARD 3 - ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty

3-6 All faculty of a dental hygiene program who teach in a didactic course must possess a baccalaureate or higher degree. All faculty whose teaching is limited to a clinical and dental science laboratory course must possess an associate or higher degree.

All dental hygiene program faculty members must have:

- a) current knowledge of the specific subjects they are teaching.**
- b) documented background in current educational methodology concepts consistent with teaching assignments.**
- c) faculty who are dental hygienists or dentists must be graduates of programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. A dentist who was appointed as a faculty prior to July 1, 2022 is exempt from the graduation requirement. **An internationally trained dentist or dental hygienist must be qualified through appropriate knowledge and experience in the discipline as determined by the credentialing of the individual faculty as defined by the program/institution and state in which the program is located.****
- d) evidence of faculty calibration for clinical evaluation.**

Intent:

Faculty should have background in current education theory and practice, concepts relative to the specific subjects they are teaching, clinical practice experience and, if applicable, distance education techniques and delivery. These criteria apply to dentists and dental hygienists who supervise students' clinical procedures should have qualifications which comply with the state dental or dental hygiene practice act. Individuals who teach and supervise dental hygiene students in clinical enrichment experiences should have qualifications comparable to faculty who teach in the dental hygiene clinic and are familiar with the program's objectives, content, instructional methods and evaluation procedures.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- faculty curriculum vitae with recent professional development activities listed
- evidence of participation in workshops, in-service training, self-study courses, on-line and credited courses
- attendance at regional and national meetings that address education
- mentored experiences for new faculty
- scholarly productivity
- maintenance of existing and development of new and/or emerging clinical skills