Division of Dental Hygiene
Academic and Professional Standards
Document

Developed by the Dental Hygiene Academic Standards Committee and
Approved by the Dental Hygiene Faculty and the
Dean of the School of Dentistry
August 2003
Dental Hygiene
Student Rights and Responsibilities

(Effective for all undergraduate students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program)

I. Preamble

By enrolling in the Dental Hygiene program of West Virginia University, the student accepts the academic and professional standards/requirements outlined herein as requisite for continued enrollment in this curriculum and graduation. Knowledge of and conformity to these standards/requirements are the students’ responsibility.

Students enjoy the rights specified in the West Virginia University Board of Governors Policy # 10 which include freedom of expression and assembly, freedom of association, and privacy.

Students are expected to abide by federal, state, and local statues and ordinances, both on and off campus, refrain from behavior incompatible with the responsibilities of the dental profession, and follow the specific rules of conduct established in West Virginia University Board of Governors Policy # 10.

In all disciplinary proceedings, students are considered innocent until allegations with regard to violations of this policy have been established by clear and convincing evidence.

II. Professional Performance Standards

A. Personal Appearance:
   Students are required at all times to be in compliance with the requirements for dress and appearance contained in the document entitled WVU School of Dentistry Policy on Professional Appearance (Appendix A) and the West Virginia University Division of Dental Hygiene Uniform Policy (Appendix B).

B. Personal Behavior/Conduct:
   Students are required at all times to be in compliance with the Student Code of Academic and Professional Behavior (Appendix C).

III. Dental Hygiene Academic Policies

At mid-term and the conclusion of every semester, the Dental Hygiene Committee on Academic and Professional Standards reviews the status of every student in the program. The Committee may also convene more frequently as any Professional/Academic situations arise. The Committee recommends promotion, probation, suspension, or dismissal to the Dean of the School of Dentistry.
If students fulfill all course requirements, meet all professional standards and have the necessary grade point averages, promotion is unconditional.

A. All students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program must maintain full-time status and meet with the Director prior to making any changes to their prescribed schedule. Alterations in your schedule could adversely affect your ability to meet Program expectations and could result in sanctions up to and including dismissal.

B. Students must maintain cumulative and dental hygiene/science grade point averages of 2.5 (2.25 for the classes of 2013 and 2014) or higher. The dental hygiene/science grade point average is based upon the average of grades earned in all attempts of the following courses, or their equivalent:

- Neurobiology and Anatomy 107/207 and 309
- Biology 102 and 104
- Chemistry 111 and 112
- Microbiology 200
- Pathology 300 and 302
- Pharmacology and Toxicology 260
- Health and Nutrition 171
- All Dental Hygiene Courses

C. A grade of “F” in a dental hygiene/science course or failure to attain a 2.5 (2.25 for the classes of 2013 and 2014) or higher cumulative or dental hygiene/science grade point in any semester will result in placing a student on probation.

D. Students on probation who do not raise their cumulative or dental hygiene/science grade point average to 2.5 (2.25 for the classes of 2013 and 2014) or higher or better the following semester may be dismissed from the Dental Hygiene program.

E. A student who receives a grade of D, F, W, or WU in a required dental hygiene/science course must repeat that course. These courses may only be repeated ONCE. Failure to earn a grade of C or better on your second attempt will result in dismissal from the Dental Hygiene program.

F. A student may repeat only TWO dental hygiene/science courses throughout the Dental Hygiene curriculum. A third D or F in a dental hygiene/science course may require the student to repeat the year as a full-time student as determined by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee. Four or more grades of D or F will result in dismissal from the Dental Hygiene program, and the student will be ineligible for readmission to the Program.
G. The Dental Hygiene Program will acknowledge West Virginia University’s D/F repeat policy in relationship to determining the overall grade point average, hours attempted and hours earned. The Program will utilize both grades (attempts) to determine the dental hygiene/science grade point average. Rectifying one or more grades of D, F, W, or WU through the D/F repeat policy does not negate recognizing the original grade (1st attempt) by the Program in determining the sanctions associated with number of courses.

H. Students repeating the year are required to repeat all dental hygiene/science courses in which they were enrolled that year and earned a grade of “C” or below. The Academic and Professional Standards Committee may also prescribe any additional course to enhance the student's academic progress and psychomotor skills.

I. Prior to entrance into the fall semester of the sophomore (2nd) year, a student must have successfully completed Chemistry 111/112.

J. Prior to entrance into DTHY 226, a student must pass all Dental Hygiene/Basic Science courses required in the first two years of the curriculum.

K. Dental hygiene/science pre-requisite courses in which students earn a grade of D, F, W, or WU must be repeated prior to the student’s progression to the next course in that sequence and at the discretion of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, may result in repeating the year.

L. The Division of Dental Hygiene reserves the right to recommend imposition of academic sanctions, to require remedial work, or to withhold the opportunity to take one or more licensing exams. This policy would affect any student who may have met formal curriculum requirements, but who lacks the professional skills and/or behavior and conduct considered necessary for the baccalaureate degree in Dental Hygiene.

M. Students recommended for dismissal have the opportunity for due process by writing to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee within five working days of receipt of the written notice and may be asked to meet in person with the recommending Committee. (See Academic Sanctions: Procedures and Appeals in the WVU Student Handbook.) The Dean may accept, modify, or reject the Academic and Professional Standards Committee’s recommendation. The Dean’s decision is final.

N. Successful completion of the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination is a requirement for graduation. Failure to produce evidence of taking this examination before the first day of the spring semester of the senior year will result in academic sanctions up to and including repeating the year or dismissal.
O. All students are also required to take a clinical board for licensure prior to graduation.

P. The School of Dentistry Division of Dental Hygiene reserves the right to declare a student ineligible for any licensure examination (national, regional or state boards).