

Date: March 19, 2020

To: Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor

From: Pat Deery

Cc: Jeff Jesse, Dean of the College
Carri Sh...
Laura Stoddard, Assistant Registrar
Susan N...
Claudia Lampman, Vice Provost for Student Services

Re: AY20 Extended Pr...

I have reviewed the ... and the ... Dental Hygiene program.

Recommendations

My recommendation ...
Review will be included in the ...

Decision

Rec...

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transition of the Dental Hygiene program from the AAS degree to the BS degree is complete, program demand is expected to increase and become stable.

The Dental Hygiene BS is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA). To become licensed as a dental hygienist in the State of Alaska, students must graduate from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program. The curriculum was completely revised when the program transitioned to the baccalaureate level. Program faculty regularly seek input from students and from a community-based advisory committee. Together, they identify key recommendations for program improvement. The program maintains a strong focus on academic assessment and improvement. Overall, the program does an excellent job preparing students for the national board examinations. Recent outcomes show that all students (100%) passed the didactic national board exam, and all students (100%) passed the clinical board exams required for dental hygiene licensure.

Submission date February 10, 2020

Program/s in this review Dental Hygiene BS _____

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable) Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) _____

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage _____

Members of the program review committee:

- x Carri Shamburg, Assistant Professor (Chair), Anchorage
- x Laura Stoddard, Assistant Professor, Anchorage

1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role (700 words or less)

Program Relevancy

Mission The mission of the UAA DH program is to educate students in dental hygiene to the Bachelor of Science degree level. The educational objectives of the DH program are to produce graduates who have the technical and professional demeanor to perform occupationally related procedures, demonstrate the academic and clinical proficiency necessary to succeed on national and regional examinations, be prepared to perform inter-dental practices in various settings, meet the occupational requirements of employers, and prepare students for graduate education. The program's mission aligns with that of the School of Allied Health, College of Health and UAA by supporting UAA's commitment to serving the higher education needs of the state and its communities by providing training in highly technical and skilled medical occupations to meet the healthcare needs of the people of Alaska. The program has potential to directly support the Board of Regents goal to double the number of health graduates by 2025, through partnerships with regional campuses with the University of Alaska.

History The UAA Dental Hygiene program was established in 1975 to meet industry employment demands for dental hygienists. The high demand for competent dental hygienists continues across the entire state. Dental hygienists are primary care oral health professionals who are licensed to provide oral health services to patients, improving their overall health through the promotion of optimal oral health. This definition speaks to the direction dental hygiene educational programs strive to pursue (Heile, 2017). Strengths and weaknesses of the current dental hygiene educational system. Journal of Dental Education 81(9)

The entry-level Dental Hygiene (DH) program at UAA has recently been revised into a Bachelor of Science (BSDH) degree, with the first BSDH cohort enrolled spring of 2019, and a graduation date in the spring of 2021. The data presented in this review is historical from the former dental hygiene Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program. The former BSDH program was a degree completion program for those AAS graduates that desired to earn a higher degree in the discipline of dental hygiene. BSDH data from the newly revised degree are not yet available.

Support for Other Academic Programs

The dental hygiene program selects a cohort each year through an application and interview process. Those that are not selected or who are unable to finish the program are mentored to pursue other UAA programs of their interest, e.g., Dental Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Nursing, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assi

The course pass rate chart also indicates some 500-level courses. The dental hygiene program periodically offers 500-level courses for professional development to practicing clinicians. The program is honored to be a resource for the continued learning of current practitioners based information within the state.

Program Cost

The program is supported by tuition, fees and funding from the College of Health. Some program costs are offset by revenue generated at the dental clinic, which serves as a world lab for students that provides low cost dental care to members of the community. Revenue generated from the clinic helps offset costs associated with needed consumables and personnel. It has high faculty costs due to the accreditation related low faculty: student ratio (1:5) in labs and practicum courses. Although the program's costs are high, the DH program at UAA is critical to educate these dental professionals to address Alaskan healthcare workforce demands and thereby advance the health of Alaskans.

3. Program Quality Improvement and Student Success (1500 words or less)

Specialty Accreditation

To be a licensed dental hygienist in the State of Alaska, students must graduate from a dental hygiene program

3. Critically evaluate scientific literature and research relevant to dental hygiene.
4. Collect, analyze, and record data on the general and oral health status of patients.
5. Use critical decision making skills to develop a dental hygiene diagnosis, which will provide a basis for interventions that are within the scope of dental hygiene practice and determine the need for referral to

event involved almost 50 community volunteers and provided \$93,000 in free dental services to some patients in the south-central Alaska region. Student feedback is that this is one of the most impactful learning experiences in the program.

The Dean has been supportive of the program, knowing that student success is a priority. The program has an excellent record of preparing students for employment as dental hygienists. All program ~~stating~~ outcomes are consistently met each year, and student performance on board exams is exemplary. The program desires to have continued support and possible funding for additional clinic time as needed for student success, as well as opportunities to pursue program expansion considering the ~~dentist~~ community support for additional dental hygiene education in other areas of Alaska.

Recommendation

The role of the Dental Hygienist is increasing in scope and has strong potential in the ~~primary~~ professional setting (Theile, 2017). It is the ~~reco~~mmendation of this committee that the BS DH Program at the UAA be enhanced. As stated earlier in this report, the program is positioned to collaborate with other campuses across the UA system to provide the education for additional dental hygienists.