

**Course Outline for:** DENH 2281 Preventive Concepts in Community Dental Health

**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: Acceptance into Dental Hygiene Program
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: None

To develop the student's awareness and understanding of the dental hygienist's role in and contribution to public health and community dental health care initiatives.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** October 2024

**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Introduction to Community Dental Health
2. Need, Demand, Utilization and Provisions of Dental Services
3. Core Functions of Public Health
4. Community Based Oral Disease Prevention Strategies
5. Advocacy & Funding for Oral Health Programs
6. Introduction into Biostatistics & Research Methodology
7. Evidence-Based Practice & Critical Analysis of Research
8. Epidemiology
9. Fluoride Delivery Systems and School Based Sealant Programs
10. Health Literacy and Equitable Care
11. Interprofessional Education
12. Oral Health Education & Promotion
13. Oral Health Program Assessment, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation
14. Community-Based Prevention Programs

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the distribution of the oral health workforce as related to treatment need, demand, utilization, and access to oral health services.
2. Summarize public health career options for dental hygienists available independently, through alternative practice settings, and throughout community agencies.
3. Differentiate specific types of research studies based upon characteristics in research design, which include epidemiologic studies.
4. Analyze current research articles from peer-reviewed journals by examining and evaluating the study's scientific method, statistical designs, results, and stated conclusions.

5. Formulate evidence-based decisions that integrate emerging technologies and treatment modalities into total patient dental hygiene care.
6. Describe various demographics and current trends affecting public health.
7. Relate dental disease prevention strategies such as, school sealant programs, water fluoridation, and topical fluoride modalities, as a means towards community-based oral health.
8. Examine the goals, core functions, and levels of government in public health.
9. Recognize the major health policy documents that guide public health programming (Healthy People 2030).
10. Illustrate the importance of designing community programs based on health literacy, cultural competency, and equitable care.
11. Participate in advocacy efforts to advance the profession and support access to oral health initiatives.
12. Formulate the purpose, components, design, and resources used in a dental public health education program.
13. Evaluate the importance of incorporating assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation, in public health programs (APIE).
14. Assess the oral health needs of the community through data collection methods, quality of resources, and services.
15. Construct a community dental oral health service presentation by incorporating key lesson planning components, and comprehensive educational methodologies.
16. Evaluate interprofessional practices that address healthcare needs and promote health in local communities.

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Assignments/Worksheets
2. Quizzes/ Examinations
3. Group/Team Community Dental Health Field Project
4. Community Enrichment Opportunities

**F. Special Information:**

None