From Revising Program SLOs to a Culture of Open Communication in Dental Hygiene

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Introduction

The Department of Dental Hygiene recently engaged in a faculty development course on developing program student learning outcomes. At that time, the department had 18 program student learning outcomes which were overwhelming to the faculty. The department embarked on reducing and revising the program student learning outcomes and to align with the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Core Competencies and UHM ILOs.

Department/Program Facts

- Most of 16 faculty are practitioners (5 FT Instructors, 2 PT Instructors, 7 Dentist/Periodontist, 2 Lecturers)
- 60 students (20 per cohort)
- 20 graduates a year
- Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

Strategies Used to Engage Faculty

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<th>Recurring Meetings with Set Schedule</th>
<th>Purposeful recruitment of curriculum committee members</th>
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Mentoring

- OVCAA needs...
- Accreditation needs...

Leveraging Mandates

- Needs & thoughts

Communication Conduit

- Response & feedback

Dean

Objectives

- Increase faculty engagement in process
- Reduce the number of Program SLOs
- Revise the number of Program SLOs
- Align the Program SLOs to ADEA Core Competencies and UHM ILOs

Program SLOs

1. Provide comprehensive individual patient care in a competent, confident, safe, compassionate, ethical and legal manner.
2. Integrate evidence-based practice with problem solving, and critical thinking skills to inform clinical judgment and decision making.
3. Demonstrate ability to collaborate with patients and other healthcare professionals through effective written and verbal communication skills.
4. Ensure personal and professional growth through life-long learning and participation in professional dental hygiene organizations.
5. Assess the oral health care needs of the various cultures in the community and develop relevant action plans to be implemented in a variety of healthcare settings.
6. Demonstrate clinical skills and didactic knowledge to successfully pass national and regional state board examinations.

Methods

- Review current Program SLOs
- Review course objectives
- Align to ADEA Core Competencies
- Developed six Dental Hygiene Program SLOs
- Realigned new Program SLOs to course objectives
- Aligned Program SLOs to UHM ILOs
- Met with administration

Challenges

- Timely feedback

Lessons Learned to Action Steps

Piloted in DH 240 Syllabus

- Updated PLOs on Websites

Next Steps

- Update all course syllabi with new Program SLOs and Course SLOs for Fall 2017
- Develop end of program survey to determine students’ perception of achieving Program SLOs beginning with the Class of 2019
- Develop curriculum mapping of courses

Image References:

Osada, K. M. (2017, March). From revising program SLOs to a culture of open communication in dental hygiene. Poster session presented at the Assessment for Curricular Improvement Poster Exhibit at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI.