

Course Code: DHG 236

Course Title: Ethics and Jurisprudence

Department: Allied Health

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

CIP Code: 51.0601

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 1-0-1

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 1

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 1

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Rules of conduct and behavior that guide a dentist's and dental hygienist's practice. Ethical and legal behavior expected of a professional. Political action and the importance of the relationship between professions and the government.

General Course Objectives

1. Solve ethical dilemmas using a decision-making process.
2. Correlate social responsibility with professional ethics.
3. Describe the concept of risk management and application to the dental hygiene practice.
4. Identify workplace legislation that protects both the patient and the dental hygienist in a dental practice.
5. Define the responsibilities and requirements to practice as a dental hygienist in Illinois according to the Illinois Dental Practice Act.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 099	Placement out of CCS 099	Placement out of MAT 072

Prerequisites

Credit in DHG 210, DHG 217, DHG 218, DHG 230, DHG 233, and ENG 101

Admission into the Dental Hygiene program

Methods of Evaluation

2-3 Exams, 1 Ethical Decision Making Group Project, 2-3 Case Study Group Discussions, 1-2 Ethical Self Reflection, and 1 Course Review.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Community Oral Health Practice for the Dental Hygienist by Beatty

Darby's Comprehensive Review of Dental Hygiene by Blue

Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice by Pieren and Gadbury-Amyot

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Reasoning and Inquiry: Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Course, Ethical Principles/Core Values	- Describe characteristics of a true profession. - Define the terms ethics and professional ethics. - Define and distinguish between the three major theories: Teleologic/utilitarian ethics (John Stuart Mill), Deontologic ethics (Immanuel Kant), and Virtue ethics (Aristotle and Plato). - Define social responsibility. - Contrast health care as a privilege with healthcare as a right. - Identify the core values found in the Code of Ethics of the American Dental Hygienist's Association. - Define and recognize examples of the terms: autonomy, societal trust, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, veracity, fidelity, confidentiality, and societal trust. - Working in small groups, discuss and determine actions to an ethical dilemma within a Case Study.	3	0	0
Ethical Decision Making	- Define the terms ethical issue and ethical dilemma. - List the steps involved in the ethical decision-making process. - Determine core values and principles used to solve an ethical dilemma. - Working in small groups, assess and select appropriate action to an ethical dilemma within a Case Study using the decision-making framework discussed in the text.	3	0	0
Informed Consent, Risk Reduction Strategies	- Discuss the criteria necessary for informed consent and informed refusal. - Compare and contrast ethical principles found in codes of ethics, informed consent, and patient's bill of rights. - List key components of the dental client record. - List strategies that can identify and decrease risk within the dental hygiene practice. - Identify concepts necessary for communication with clients, employers, and colleagues. - Working in small groups, discuss and determine appropriate processes and procedures to reduce risky behavior in the dental practice.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Jurisprudence	1. Compare and contrast the concepts of civil law with criminal law, utilizing examples found in dental hygiene practice. 2. Define standard of care. 3. Define and distinguish between the following terms: a. Intentional tort and unintentional tort, b. Malpractice and negligence, c. Libel and slander, d. Assault and battery, e. Technical battery, and f. Implied contract and expressed contract. 4. List the types and circumstances of supervision found in the Dental Practice Act in Illinois. 5. List the contractual responsibilities of the provider to the client and the client to the provider. 6. Define abandonment and list conditions that must be met to end a practitioner/client relationship. 7. Explain the legislative process in the United States. 8. Describe the entity responsible for regulation of the dental hygienist. 9. Working in small groups, discuss and determine the necessary components of an office Policy and Procedure Manual.	3	0	0
Illinois Dental Practice Act	1. State the difference between supervision and general supervision in Illinois. 2. Describe an impaired dentist or dental hygienist, according to the Illinois Dental Practice Act. 3. State the individuals who make up the Illinois Board of Dentistry. 4. Describe the steps in gaining dental hygiene licensure in Illinois. 5. Describe the type of exams needed to gain dental hygiene licensure in Illinois. 6. Describe the criteria needed for dental hygiene license renewal in Illinois. 7. State the number of years for each licensing period. 8. State the number of continuing education hours needed for each licensing period. 9. State the topics of continuing education that are NOT acceptable. 10. State the acts that make up the practice of dental hygiene in Illinois. 11. State the number of dental hygienists that can work for 1 dentist concurrently in Illinois. [ratio ____: 1] 12. Describe the need for display of dental hygiene license(s) in Illinois. 13. State the method of display for a hygienist working in more than one dental practice. 14. State the current license fee and license renewal fee. 15. State the actions that could result in refusal, suspension, or revocation of a dental hygiene license in Illinois. 16. State the role of confidentiality as described in the Illinois Dental Practice Act. 17. State a dental hygienist's liability if reporting violations of the Illinois Dental Practice Act. 18. Describe how dentists and dental hygienists are protected in the state of Illinois, according to the Illinois Dental Practice Act. 19. State the time period within which a dental hygienist must notify the state of Illinois if there is a change of address. 20. State the number of continuing education hours required for local anesthesia administration and nitrous oxide sedation administration.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Illinois Dental Practice Act (cont'd)	21. Describe the practice of dental hygiene in a long-term care facility. 22. State the time limit for a written order by a dentist for a dental hygienist to perform services in a long-term care facility. 23. State the duties limited to a dental assistant. 24. State the criteria needed, including the number of continuing education hours required, for a dental assistant to place pit and fissure sealants and/or coronal polishing in the state of Illinois. 25. State the curriculum subject areas required of approved* dental hygiene programs in the state of Illinois. *Approved programs reflect Accreditation by the American Dental Association. 26. Describe the steps that must be followed for restoration of a dental hygiene license in Illinois. 27. Demonstrate knowledge of the Illinois Dental Practice Act by written exam.			

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
15	0	0