

DHYG 227 : Law and Ethics

Credits 3

Students study ethical theories and issues related to the practice of dental hygiene and professionalism. A personal philosophy of professional conduct, continuous quality assurance and self-assessment is explored. Fundamental factors necessary to practice within existing regulatory frameworks are stressed. Inter- and intra-professional communication is practiced. This course will also include Washington State laws to pass the required state Drug and Law exam. This class may include students from multiple sections.

Course Outcomes

- Formulate personal and professional moral and ethical decision-making strategies.
- Apply basic biomedical ethics to clinical practice, including ethical, legal, and regulatory concepts.
- Define and discuss ethics and professionalism, including models of professionalism in oral health care.
- Define and apply the concept of "standard of care".
- Discuss patients' legal rights and responsibilities regarding dental hygiene care.
- Explain concepts of legal documentation and professional risk management that apply to practice.
- Apply concepts of quality assurance through self-assessment and record auditing.
- Establish and apply ethical reflection and self-assessment as a lifelong endeavor.
- Analyze factors associated with abuse of children, domestic partners, and elders and determine the appropriate actions to take in suspected cases.
- Discuss the Codes of Ethics from professional dental organizations and analyze their application to practice.
- Discuss legislation affecting dental practice and jurisprudence.