Required Student Learning Outcomes
PSLO’s (Program Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies)

The Dental Hygiene Program Student Learning Outcomes were developed using data and information from the following resources:

- The Current Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Programs published by the Commission on Dental Accreditation  (Copyright 2013 with revisions most currently implemented January 2016)
- The Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry 0460-03: Rules Governing the Practice of Dental Hygienists TN Code Exemptions 63-5-109
- ADEA Competencies for Entry into Allied Dental Professions (2011)
- ADHA Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice (2008)
- ADHA & ADEA Competencies for Graduate Dental Hygiene Education (2012)

1. **RISK MANAGEMENT.** Students will protect themselves, as well as their patients and staff from harm during assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation procedures.

2. **PATIENT ASSESSMENT.** Students will assess a patient's medical and dental history and oral soft and hard tissues using systematic data collection and analysis.

3. **PLANNING / DECISION MAKING/EVALUATION.** Student will plan realistic treatment and prevention goals using effective decision making procedures, problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills.

4. **TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION.** Students will treat dental diseases by providing dental hygiene care, recommending dental treatment, and evaluating outcomes.

5. **HEALTH PROMOTION / DISEASE PREVENTION.** Students will utilize appropriate communication and interpersonal skills and education to promote optimal oral health.

6. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** Students will exhibit the values and skills necessary for life-long learning, self-improvement and professional development.

CSLO’s (Course Student Learning Outcomes – complete list)

1. **RISK MANAGEMENT** Students will protect themselves, as well as their patients and staff from harm during assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation procedures.
   
a) **Emergency**
   Students will recognize potential emergency situations and respond according to established protocols set by the program
   
b) **Infection Control/Safety**
   Students will comply with OSHA, Chattanooga State’s Nursing/Allied
Health & Dental Hygiene program’s infection control guidelines to control the spread of infectious diseases.

c) Legal/Liability
   Student will practice in accordance with TN state laws and Scope of practice that govern the practice of dental hygiene.

D) Quality Assurance
   Students will ensure quality control standards are met to maintain and monitor clinical equipment, supplies, radiographic and sterilization procedures.

e) Ergonomics
   Students will possess basic skills to position operator and patient for efficiency and proper ergonomics

2. **PATIENT ASSESSMENT**
   Students will assess a patient’s medical and dental history and oral soft and hard tissues using systematic data collection and analysis.

   a) Basic Skills/Instruments
      Students will possess basic instrumentation skills and use dental instruments correctly and effectively to provide dental hygiene care.

   b) History/Vitals
      Students will assess a patient’s medical and dental history employing principles of pharmacology and determine need for premedication and/or doctor consult, allergies, and attain accurate vital signs and assign ASA medical risk level.

   c) Extra oral/Intraoral soft tissues
      Students will assess a patient’s oral tissues with an understanding of normal function and appearance. Identify oral lesions, occlusion, TMD, enlarged or fixed lymph nodes and variances of normal. Document findings accurately.

   d) Imaging
      Students will produce diagnostic radiographic images utilizing radiation physics and chemistry principles, following the ALARA principle and all ChSCC radiation and safety guidelines.

   e) Dentition
      Students will assess a patient’s dentition accurately comparing healthy versus carious and restored function and appearance.

   f) Periodontium
      Students will assess a patient’s periodontium accurately with an understanding of normal function and appearance including obtaining accurate measurements, recognizing indications of disease, identifying calculus, determining calculus difficulty level, dental hygiene diagnosis and prognosis.

   g) Biofilm & Indices
      Students will assess the presence of dental biofilm with an understanding of its microbial content and its development and attain accurate index when indicated.

   h) Hard Deposits
      Students will assess the presence of dental calculus with an understanding of its microbial content and its development.

   i) Risk
      Students will assess a patient’s oral risk, including factors that will
increase the risk of developing caries, periodontal disease, or oral/pharyngeal cancer.

3. **PLANNING / DECISION MAKING/EVALUATION** Students will plan realistic treatment and prevention goals using effective decision making procedures, problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills.

   a) **Dental Hygiene Diagnosis**
      Students will formulate the dental hygiene diagnosis by considering the patient’s health history, oral health needs and values, and findings from the patient assessment.

   b) **Radiographic / Other Diagnostic Analysis**
      Students will distinguish normal radiographic images from those that are potentially pathologic and utilize diagnostic tools and analysis as appropriate and available.

   c) **Treatment Planning/Consent**
      Students will establish realistic dental hygiene treatment and prevention utilizing evidence based decision making strategies, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

   d) **Collaboration/Communication**
      Students will exhibit and demonstrate effective communication and collaboration skills between themselves and patients, dental staff, dentists, other clinicians and patient caregivers.

   e) **Documentation and Referrals**
      Students will follow and apply all established protocols to document all components of the dental hygiene process of care, including explaining necessary referrals for comprehensive care.

   f) **Evaluation/Maintenance**
      Students will evaluate the success of dental hygiene treatment, using specific measurable goals, devise a new treatment plan if necessary, and plan continuing maintenance/care.

   g) **Other Considerations**
      Students will modify treatment strategies as appropriate to meet the needs of patients with: age related conditions, signs of drug, alcohol, physical and/or emotional abuse, a developmental defect, a genetic defect, a physical or intellectual impairment or disability, an infectious disease, a seizure disorder, an emotional/mental illness, cancer, an autoimmune disease, systemic disease, maxillofacial surgery and/or supplemental dental care.

4. **TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION** Students will treat dental diseases by providing dental hygiene care, recommending dental treatment, and evaluating outcomes.

   a) **Scaling/Periodontal Debridement**
      Students will remove all identified supra-sub gingival calculus deposits with correct use of power devices and hand instruments; maintain sharp instruments and avoid tissue trauma.

   b) **Soft deposits/Stain Removal**
      Students will remove all identified soft deposits and stains by selecting appropriate pastes, abrasive agents, power devices, polishers and/or oxidizing agents. Students will demonstrate correct use of devices or agents and avoid tissue trauma.
c) Pain management
Students will manage a patient’s dental pain with an understanding of the human nervous system and treatment options. Agents include: topical, injectable, inhalation, and desensitizing; including appropriate selection, dose, and type.
d) Chemotherapeutics
Students will apply appropriate chemotherapeutic agents to treat the etiology and/or the effects of dental diseases.
e) Impressions/Models
Students will construct study models for diagnostic and/or treatment procedures.
f) Restorative /Prosthesis /Specialized Care
Students will educate patients on self-care and apply appropriate instrumentation principles to improve longevity, appearance, and function of restorations, prostheses, implants and appliances.

5.HEALTH PROMOTION / DISEASE PREVENTION Students will contribute to patients’ health and wellness by providing holistic care. Students will assist patients and the public in achieving optimal oral and physical health and wellness through health promotion, prevention and education.

a) Preventive & Therapeutic Therapies
Students will recognize the need for, recommend, and/or apply as appropriate preventive and therapeutic agents (such as fluoride, chemotherapeutics, CPP-ACP, xylitol, etc.)
b) Immunology/Inflammation and Systemic Link
Students will consider epidemiological evidence supporting the concept that poor oral hygiene, especially moderate to severe periodontal conditions, may put a patient at significant risk for a variety of systemic conditions. Students will evaluate how the susceptibility of the host, bacterial and environmental factors influence inflammation and the disease process.

c) Education
Students will assist and motivate patients/public in achieving optimal oral and physical health and wellness through education and health promotion. Includes providing nutritional counseling to patients whose diet may be adversely affecting their oral health, instructing patients in biofilm removal techniques, and assisting patients in modification of habits that adversely affect their oral health such as tobacco use.

d) Service/Community Based Oral Health Programs
Students will develop Community Based Oral Health projects and assist in service learning activities that improve the well-being of citizens, educate, and provide access to care to uninsured and underserved populations.

6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Students will exhibit the values and skills necessary for life-long learning, self-improvement, career and professional development.

a) Ethics/Professionalism
Students will establish a personal code of ethics and professionalism that governs their practice of dental hygiene.
b) Cultural Competence
Students will effectively communicate with diverse population groups in a manner that promotes trust and confidence. Students will acknowledge cultural influences on patients’ health-related beliefs and behaviors and understand how these influences affect the provision of care.

c) Self-Assessment/Reflective Practice
Students will accurately self-assess and reflect on their performance and clinical experiences in order to think critically and direct their learning.

d) Technology/Dental Informatics
Students will explore the transformation in health care through implementation of electronic health records systems and information exchanges. Students will recognize and discuss the opportunities in dentistry as well as the challenges facing security and patient confidentiality.

e) Inter/Intra professional Collaboration/Professional Advocacy
Students will discuss the importance of advocacy for the profession as well as the public and why both intra-professional and inter-professional collaborative practice is vital for future healthcare.

f) Business/Practice Management
Students will demonstrate practice management skills, such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving to maximize practice efficiency, productivity, & teamwork.

g) Evidence-Based Practice/Scientific Literature Review/Research
Students will evaluate published research findings based on sound statistical principles. Students will utilize a patient-centered approach to care, merging research with clinical expertise and patient preferences.