Academic Policy Guidelines

At the end of each semester, the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee and the Dental Hygiene Academic Performance Committee will review the academic performance of every dental hygiene student. The Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee performs the initial review and makes recommendations to the Academic Performance Committee. The Academic Performance Committee will make final recommendations regarding whether students will be promoted within the dental hygiene program to the Dean of the School of Dentistry. All academic regulations specified by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (the University) for undergraduate students are applicable to dental hygiene students. In addition to meeting minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements as specified by the University, the following academic guidelines apply to dental hygiene students:

1. A student must earn at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA in all classes attempted at the University in order to graduate with either a Certificate or a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

2. A student who fails to achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 in dental hygiene courses will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. Based on academic performance during the past semester(s), the student's potential to successfully complete the program will be considered by the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee in formulating a preliminary recommendation made to the Academic Performance Committee. This recommendation may include, but is not limited to:
   
   A. continued timely progression in the standard dental hygiene curriculum,
   B. remediation of one or more courses,
   C. curriculum modification in the subsequent semesters that may delay graduation,
   D. repeating first or second year courses
   E. dismissal from the program.

3. A grade lower than C- in any dental hygiene course will result in remediation, curriculum modification, or program dismissal. Students that are not dismissed will be placed on an Academic Warning status within the Dental Hygiene Program. The recommendation will be based on overall performance in dental hygiene courses, dental hygiene GPA, and overall GPA. The remediation plan is within the discretion of the course director to determine how the remediation is accomplished and the mastery level for content competency.
4. Receipt of a failing grade in any dental hygiene course will result in the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee formulating a recommendation to the Academic Performance Committee that may include, but is not limited to:

A. repeating the course on a modified basis in the subsequent semester (with approval of the course director) with a dental hygiene academic status change to probation.
B. repeating the course (or a substitute) in summer school, with a dental hygiene academic status change to probation.
C. retaking the course in a regular semester (which will probably involve repeating the entire semester or year), with a dental hygiene academic status change to probation.
D. dismissal from the program.

*A grade of “F” in a dental hygiene elective course will require retaking the elective course or fulfilling the elective requirement by making a passing grade in another approved elective course.

5. In the event that a student receives a grade of incomplete in a dental hygiene course, the incomplete must be removed prior to the beginning of the subsequent regular semester or in accordance with the University guidelines stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin. The Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee will make a recommendation to the Academic Performance Committee as to the method of removal of the incomplete grade.

6. A student who receives a final course grade lower than a C- in any dental hygiene course will be placed on academic warning.
   A. Students with a status of warning will complete a self-assessment form provided by their academic advisor
   B. Student must meet with their academic advisor to keep them informed of their academic development.
   C. Students must schedule and attend an Academic Success Consultation with The Office of Undergraduate Retention.
   D. Students will be placed on an academic success plan
   E. Students who do not improve their final course grade(s) above a grade of a C-, in the following semester will be subject to academic probation status within the Dental Hygiene Program.

7. In the event a student is placed on Academic Probation (as outlined in statements 2, 4, and 6) the students should:
   A. Complete a self-assessment form provided by their academic advisor
   B. Meet with their academic advisor to keep them informed of their academic development.
C. Schedule and attend an Academic Success Consultation with The Office of Undergraduate Retention.
D. Be placed on an Academic Success Plan

At the completion of a semester in which the student has been placed on Academic Probation, the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee and Academic Performance Committee can make a recommendation to the Academic Performance Committee that the student progress in the curriculum, continue on a modified schedule, repeat the year, or be dismissed from the program. A student on academic probation can be dismissed if:

A. The student does not achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 or higher;
B. The student fails to show sufficient promise to continue the study of dental hygiene as demonstrated by their academic/clinical performance (which encompasses critical thinking and analytical skills); or
C. The student earns below a C- in a course in the dental hygiene curriculum.

8. In cases where a student on academic warning or probation does not follow through with their Academic Success Plan the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee has the grounds to make a recommendation (as outlined in statement 7).

9. In situations where academic performance (semester or overall) has been unacceptable (as outlined in statements 1-4), recommendations for continued progression in the program or readmission will be based on the student’s:

A. demonstrated motivation and interest,
B. clinical performance, and
C. perceived potential for improvement as determined by the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee and the Academic Performance Committee

Continuation in the program or readmission under these conditions will usually involve repeating a semester or year in the curriculum. In all cases, the University’s minimum GPA requirements must be met. The Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee will make recommendations relative to specific courses that should be repeated, and the Academic Performance Committee will review those recommendations and determine the final action.

10. Dismissal from the School of Dentistry’s Dental Hygiene program does not necessarily constitute dismissal from the University.

11. Students will be named to the "Dean's List" for any semester according to University guidelines for undergraduate students.
Appeal of Decisions of the Respective Performance Review Committee

All actions taken by the Academic Performance Committee may be appealed to the Administrative Board of the School of Dentistry. Students may appeal decisions of the respective performance review committee. Students must submit such appeals in writing to the Chair of the Administrative Board (a copy must be sent to the Associate Dean for Education) within 10 calendar days of written notification of the committee’s decision. The appeal must state the ground(s) for the appeal as provided in Section XIII of the SOD General Academic Policies and Procedures Manual. The Administrative Board recommendations are advisory to the Dean, who will render a decision following receipt of same. This policy is stated in the School of Dentistry’s General Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, which is available online at https://www.dentistry.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Policy-Manual-General-2016-.pdf?75834a.

Professional/Ethical Conduct Guidelines

1. The Academic Performance Committee reserves the right to dismiss, place on probation, or recommend reclassification of a student at the end of any semester if the student does not, in the Academic Performance Committee’s judgment, demonstrate professional conduct consistent with the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Code of Ethics, regardless of the student's demonstrated academic performance.

2. A student may be deemed ineligible for promotion or may be dismissed or reclassified if the student has displayed a lack of professionalism with respect to the management of patients or during interactions with other students, staff, or faculty. These factors, among others, are regarded as equally important to other academic standards in that they reflect the developing capacity to deliver a high standard of health care service.

3. Students must adhere to all University policies, including but not limited to the School of Dentistry’s General Academic Policies and Procedures Manual (https://www.dentistry.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Policy-Manual-General-2016-.pdf?75834a) and The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance (https://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/documents/Instrument.pdf). In instances in which the student has violated a University policy, the Academic Performance Committee will make recommendations for dismissal or reclassification to the Dean of the School of Dentistry.

Certificate to Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Track Guidelines

1. Students must declare an academic track with their assigned academic advisor during first year orientation.
2. Beginning Fall 2018, students who graduate from the UNC Dental Hygiene program with a Certificate or Post-Degree Certificate may enroll in General Education coursework to complete University requirements to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene.

3. All coursework must be completed by the following August of the same academic year.