ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Professional education in the health sciences manifests characteristics that are unique among advanced educational programs. Academic Standards of the School of Dentistry are established to ensure that the public, whose health will be entrusted to graduates of its programs, will receive care of professionally acceptable quality and that the care will be provided in an ethical and professional manner.

Standards of Scholarship

A. A predoctoral dental or pre-baccalaureate dental hygiene student must maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average each semester in their program. Failure to attain a 2.5 in any semester will result in the student being placed on probation for the next semester. In order for a semester to count toward removing a student from probation, the student must be enrolled full time - at least five hours in summer or 12 hours in fall or spring.

All students who are placed on probation should review their academic progress with the Chair of the Academic Standards Committee or the Coordinator of Academic Support Services and may be asked to appear before the Committee. A second consecutive semester of a below 2.5 grade point average will result in dismissal from the predoctoral or pre-baccalaureate dental hygiene program. A total of three semesters with GPA's below 2.5 will result in dismissal from the students’ program. Two semesters separated by a summer session in which the student is enrolled in less than five graded hours will count as consecutive semesters. Two semesters separated by a leave of absence will count as consecutive semesters.

B. The failure of any course (receiving a grade of F or No Credit) will necessitate additional work to remove or replace the F or No Credit. This will consist of repeating the course the next time it is offered at the School of Dentistry or completion of a remediation plan. The course of action that is offered a student will be determined by the Academic Affairs Dean in consultation with the course director. If a course is repeated at UMKC, the student will receive whatever grade he or she earns in the repeated course. Both grades will appear on the student’s transcript and will be included in the student's grade point average. With the approval of the course director, the Academic Affairs Dean may approve a plan to repeat a comparable course at another school.

If a remediation plan is to be developed, the plan will be developed by the course director with the approval of the Academic Affairs Dean. Remediation plan examples include:

1. Independent study for a number of weeks followed by an examination.
2. Remedial summer laboratory project followed by pre-clinical laboratory examination/s.
3. A series of written exercises followed by an examination.
4. Clinical mentoring followed by competency assessment
5. Other appropriate instructional assignments

If a student successfully completes a remediation plan his or her grade of F or No Credit will be changed to a grade of D (no credit to credit). A failure or No Credit in the remediated or repeated course/s will result in dismissal from the program.

A failed course may result in an altered curriculum plan which may result in an extension of the student’s academic program. This altered curriculum will be arranged with the approval of the Academic Affairs Dean in consultation with the course director/s. Students who fail (F or NC) more than one course in any semester will be dismissed from their academic program.

C. A DDS student who fails a National Dental Board Examination three times will be dismissed from the DDS program.

D. UMKC has a Latin Honors system of recognition of graduating undergraduate and first professional students. This recognizes those students who, in the opinion of the faculty, have met the Standards of Professional Conduct, as well as the Academic Standards of the School of Dentistry for each program. Effective Fall 2012, the GPA requirements for Latin Honors for dental hygiene students are as follows: Summa Cum Laude: 3.975-4.0 GPA; Magna Cum Laude: 3.950-3.974 GPA; Cum Laude: 3.900-3.949 GPA as of the end of the fourth term of the dental hygiene program. The academic requirements for dental students for Latin Honors are as follows: Summa Cum Laude: graduating in the top 5% of the class; Magna Cum Laude: graduating in the top 6-10%; Cum Laude: graduating in the top 11-20% (based on the GPA at the end of the ninth term of study in the dental program. All dental students so recognized must attain at least a GPA of 3.75 or beyond. This will be noted on the graduate’s transcript and diploma.

E. Academic standards for advanced education students will be established and monitored through the Advanced Education Committee.

Standards of Professional Conduct

Students in the dental, dental hygiene and advanced education programs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the high ethical standards required of health care professionals. Graduates will be required to take responsibility for the health and well-being of their patients and as such are expected to demonstrate patterns of behavior that are consistent with professional standards and deserving of the public’s trust. The Standards of Professional Conduct are drawn from the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct of the American Dental Association, and the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Code of Ethics. Students should aspire to meet the high ideals of their professions which may exceed their legal duties, but must meet the minimum standards expressed in the School of Dentistry’s Standards of Professional Conduct.

A. Dental and dental hygiene students must achieve and consistently demonstrate concern for patients, peers, and others. Dental and dental hygiene students have a duty to ensure:
Academic Standards

1. That patients are treated according to the School of Dentistry’s Standards of Care, and their preferences and desires must be considered in treatment decisions.

2. Patient confidentiality in the entire range of the provider-patient relationship which includes dental records.

3. That no harm or potential harm is done to the patient either through intent, ignorance, lack of preparation for the patient encounter, lack of skill, or personal impairment of any kind.

4. That no patient is “abandoned” which is defined as discontinuance of care without just cause and without giving the patient adequate notice and the opportunity to obtain the services of another provider.

5. That the patient’s welfare (i.e. the provision of competent and timely delivery of dental care within the bounds of clinical circumstances as presented by the patient such as needs, desires and values) is paramount and takes precedence above all else. This also includes the obligation to a) identify and report perioral signs of abuse and neglect and to consult with faculty to report suspected cases to proper authorities as required by law; and, b) report instances of faulty treatment whether intentional or not, to the appropriate faculty member.

6. That all people including patients, staff, faculty and all other individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and without prejudice.

7. All standards and requirements of patient care established by the School of Dentistry are followed at all times.

B. Dental and dental hygiene students’ behavior must exemplify the highest moral and ethical standards. The following represent conduct that is incompatible with these standards:

1. Any behavior that tends to gain an unfair advantage for any student in an academic matter. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following guidelines:
   a. No student shall cheat. Cheating includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying from the work of another student, using notes or other materials not authorized during an examination, giving or receiving information or assistance on work when it is expected that a student will do his/her own work, or engaging in any similar act that violates the concept of academic integrity. Cheating may occur on an examination, test, quiz, laboratory work, report, out of class assignment or any other work submitted by a student to fulfill course requirements and presented as solely the work of the student. Cheating also involves knowingly giving any unauthorized aid to another student during the course of an examination (classroom, laboratory, or clinical) and acquiring by any means knowledge of the contents of an examination yet to be given.
   b. No student shall represent the work of another as their own. This includes fraudulently claiming credit for any classroom, clinical, laboratory, or other procedure or assignment performed by an unauthorized person, including a fellow student.
   c. No student shall commit plagiarism-representing the words of another as their own on work submitted to fulfill course requirements. Submitting, as one’s own, work done by or copied from another includes work done by a fellow student, work done by a previous student, or work done by anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment.
   d. No students shall facilitate academic dishonesty-intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
   e. No student shall falsify or misuse university records or documents. Such misuse includes falsification of patient records, the unauthorized use of computer accounts, alteration of passwords, violation of library procedures or other intentional misuse or destruction of educational materials.
   f. No student shall create a disruption in the learning process through behaviors that are not conducive to an academic and patient care environment.

C. Dental and dental hygiene students must achieve and consistently demonstrate acceptable levels of personal hygiene and dress.

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that a student has acted unethically is obligated to bring the matter to the attention of the assistant dean for student programs or his/her designee who will follow the process identified in the Preliminary Procedures section of the UMKC School of Dentistry Honor Council Due Process Procedures for Violations of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to determine whether there has been a violation and whether charges should be brought. Deficiencies in conduct as listed in the School of Dentistry Standards of Professional Conduct, or as outlined in Section 200.010, Standards of Conduct, of the University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations, by a dental or dental hygiene student shall be reported to the assistant dean for student programs or his/her representative, who will initiate the process as listed under “Preliminary Procedures.”