

**FORMAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION
TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH
SCIENCES CENTER ON THE EVALUATION OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE
EDUCATION PROGRAM
Albuquerque, New Mexico***

Introduction

An evaluation of the dental hygiene program offered by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center was conducted on November 9-10, 2016 by a committee of the Commission on Dental Accreditation composed of Ms. Pamela Sandy, consultant in dental hygiene; and Ms. Kathi Shepherd, site visit chair.

The Commission believes that educational institutions offering curricula supportive to the dental profession assume the obligation and responsibility of affording quality educational opportunities which are based on sound educational principles. Commission objectives are also based on the premise that dental hygiene education programs should strive continually to improve standards of scholarship and teaching consistent with the purpose and methods of postsecondary education. To assist the institution in appraising its educational effectiveness and identifying ways and means by which its endeavors can be strengthened, dental hygiene programs are reviewed periodically by peers in relation to predetermined standards. This peer review of the educational process is based on the program's self-study and conferences with persons involved in the various components of the program.

This report represents the visiting committee's findings and conclusions. These are found, as appropriate, under headings that parallel the Commission's Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs. Only those standards that warrant comment are included; in all other cases, the visiting committee found that the program met or exceeded the minimum standards.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation has discontinued the use of commendations, effective July 26, 2007. As a result, commendations will no longer be cited within site visit reports for programs under the Commission's purview.

Accreditation History

The dental hygiene program offered by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center was initiated in 1961. This was the Commission's eighth site evaluation of the dental hygiene program. At the time of the site visit, the accreditation status for the dental hygiene education program was "approval without reporting requirements." Information on the Commission's previous accreditation of the program follows:

* As approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for transmittal on August 3, 2017.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Basis of Action</u>	<u>Action</u>
July 1963	Site Visit	Approval
May 1970	Site Visit	Approval
May 1971	Progress Report	Approval
May 1972	Progress Report	Approval
December 1978	Site Visit	Approval
December 1986	Site Visit	Approval
December 1995	Site Visit	Conditional Approval
January 1997	Progress Report	Approval
July 1997	Progress Report	Approval
January 2003	Site Visit	Approval <u>without</u> Reporting Requirements
August 2010	Site Visit	Approval <u>without</u> Reporting Requirements

Review of Recommendations Cited in the Program’s Previous Site Visit Report

At the time of the Commission’s last evaluation of the program in November 2009, no (0) recommendations were cited.

Compliance with Commission Policies

At the time of the site visit, the visiting committee determined that the program was in compliance with the Commission on Dental Accreditation’s policies on “Third Party Comments,” “Complaints,” and “Program Changes.” The Commission’s policy on “Distance Education” does not apply to this program.

Through review of the program’s complaint records, there are no patterns or themes related to the program’s compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

Standard 1. Institutional Commitment and Program Effectiveness

The program has documented its effectiveness using a formal and ongoing outcomes assessment process to include measures of dental hygiene student achievement. Based on a review of the program's outcomes assessment process and student achievement measures, the visiting committee found the program has demonstrated positive programmatic student achievement outcomes. The program uses student performance, National Board scores, clinical board scores, instructor evaluations, focus group assessments, advisory board feedback, University of New Mexico Medical Group recommendations and guidelines, faculty and staff input during meetings, and senior exit, alumni, employer and patient satisfaction surveys to measure effectiveness in relationship to attaining program goals and competencies related to student achievement and subsequent employment. Program changes are made based upon this information.

Students perform very well on national, local anesthesia and clinic board examinations. The program makes continual changes and updates in the overall curriculum as the science evolves and changes in the licensing board examination structure occur. Although graduates continue to gain employment upon graduation, the job market for dental hygienists has become more competitive. The focus of program changes include ensuring graduates having the competitive edge when applying for dental hygiene clinical positions and skills sets in a variety of dental hygiene settings to increase overall employment opportunities. Technology focused areas were added to the clinical curriculum such as lasers, electronic health records, dental hygiene portfolios, topical antibiotic placements, electronic anesthesia, intraoral camera and all types of digital radiography. Additionally, focus has been placed on educating a dental hygienist with skills to transform the dental hygiene profession throughout the next decade. An interprofessional educational program has been integrated within the curriculum and several interprofessional student-focused projects have enabled the provision of education focused on working within health systems and with a variety of health providers. The community health curriculum continues to evolve with emphasis on new roles and University of New Mexico clinical settings such as school-based dental clinics housed within school-based health centers, a University of New Mexico dental residency clinic and a University of New Mexico special needs dental clinic add a critically-transformed focus within the dental hygiene program.

Standard 2. Educational Program

The dental hygiene program is presented in five (5), 16-week semesters and one (1), 4-week summer session. Upon completion of the program, graduates are awarded Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degrees. The curriculum has been defined in terms of program goals, general instructional objectives, learning experiences designed to achieve the goals and objectives and evaluation procedures to assess student attainment of the goals and objectives.

Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (Off-Campus Sites For Didactic and Clinical

Activity): List the names and addresses of the off-campus sites, purposes of the site, amount of time each student is assigned to the site and indicate by checkmark if the team visited the site.

Name and Address	Owned by Institution (√)	Purpose	Duration	Site Visited (√)
N/A				

Accreditation Status

At its August 3, 2017 meeting the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopted a resolution to continue the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements” for the dental hygiene program offered by University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.

Publication of Accreditation

The Commission has authorized use of the following statement by institutions or programs that wish to announce their programmatic accreditation by the Commission. Programs that wish to advertise the specific programmatic accreditation status granted by the Commission may include that information as indicated in *italics* below (see text inside square brackets); that portion of the statement is optional but, if used, must be complete and current.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [*and has been granted the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements”*]. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.