



## **Spring 2022 Program Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Program:** Dental Assisting

**Date:** 4/7/22

**Members Present:** Nicole Dresser, Heather Fullerton, Tamar Iskenderian, Jillian Reynolds, Dr. Maddie Noziak, Dr. Hannah Noyes, Dr. Kowalksi, Jackson Skane, Melanie Skane, Cassie Veruso, Nick Chamberlain-Nunes, Stacey Abbatessa, Malvine Vetrano, Dr Talberth, Paul DiLuigi, Dr. Mary Jane Hanlon, Dr. Henry Talberth, Evie Barrows, Shelley Dejarnette

**Program Facilitator:** *Nicole Dresser*

**Committee Chair:** *Stacey Abbatessa*

**Subject** *Program Updates*

*Enrollment 29 Freshmen, 22 Sophomores, 24 Juniors, 19 Seniors*

*(e, competency attainment, curriculum, equipment  
& projects/field work, senior portfolio showcase, etc)*

### **Discussion**

- *Additional New instructor with additional Freshmen*
- *Skills Assessment moved many up earlier into freshmen and sophomore year, additional incorporating real dentistry and hitting bullets*
- *Whitening trays/collaboration with cosmo - junior students were given experience working on real patients by collaborating with the junior cosmetology students.*
- *Grade 10 and former student presentation oral pathology/landmarks of the oral cavity for MCPHS Capstone Project*



- *Through grant money, we were able to attain new digital x-ray sensors (approx \$27 worth); however, we are unable to connect with the rep to set up our new equipment due to a lack of attaining new computers to run the software. The current computers will not run the sensors because they are too outdated. We already have a lot of issues with them with the current sensors we use.*
- *Nick (former student)- Felt not fully prepared for college, Dr. H “students need to learn how to study”, need to prepare students with midterms and finals*

**Subject**     *Cooperative Education Update*

**Discussion**

- *The Class of 2022 currently has 15 out of 19 students out working on cooperative education*
- *The Class of 2023 has 6 with another projected 7 students to go out after vacation*
- *Shadowing - Grade 11; This year, without the return of our Tufts University Internship, instructors had to think outside the box to come up with an alternative solution for students. We incorporated the “Shadowing” program for cooperative students who were emerging on their eligibility to go out on cooperative education. Students spent a day in our current cooperative education offices because the necessary safety paperwork was already completed and many students found it almost like an interview and we had very quick placement this year*
- *Employers are still struggling with how the current schedule works and feel it is difficult to keep cooperative education students with how it currently runs. They feel as though a better model would be splitting the grades (like their Whittier students they have) or going to work in the afternoon but on an everyday, more consistent basis*
- *Our goal is to have all 24 class of 2023 students out working on cooperative education by the end of the first quarter in the fall of 2022*

**Subject**     *Review CTE Program Assessment*

**Discussion**

- *As far as the health and safety of our students, the program is exemplary*



- *All students admitted into our grade 9 class this year and for the past four school years have been first choice*
- *We were able to increase capacity this year and obtain an additional instructor*
- *We have been working diligently to align our curriculum to technical strands set forth by the DESE ch. 74 Vocational Technical Frameworks. Current materials have been updated to include diverse populations.*
- *Significant increases to our advisory board, with members from a variety of different sources. This meeting we added in members who have children in two separate grade levels in our shop in an effort to show comparisons/improvements we are making as we go along.*
- *While improvements still need to be made as far as having more males in the profession, it is increasing every year.*
- *Budget being updated annually to reflect the increasing amount of students as well as additional costs for materials due to inflation.*
- *Current dental assisting instructor team consists of two professionally licensed teachers and 2 teachers working under a preliminary license.*
- *Working continuously with Advisory Board to make improvements to our career technical area*

**Subject**     *Employment Outlook/Industry Trends*

**Dire shortage**

**Discussion**

*There is still a dire need for both dental assistants and dental hygienists in the workforce. Dental assistants and hygienists are making around \$10 more per hour than they have been in the past few years to entice people to work in the field. While improvements still need to be made as far as having more males in the profession, it is increasing every year. While students are staying in the dental field to further their education, we are not sending enough students directly into the workforce to make up for the dental assisting shortage.*

**Subject**     *Recommendations for Program*

**Discussion**



- *Encourage students to take more licensure tests (such as NELDA) to prepare them for college better. Incorporate more rigorous tests, such as midterms and finals so that students who do want to go to college are more prepared.*
- *We should obtain a third new mannequin for radiology and a new autoclave for our classroom so that we can perform more hands-on skills with our larger groups*
- *Find a new repair person as we have not had luck lately with follow through for ongoing projects*

**Subject**     *New Business*

**Discussion**   *Radiology. Dr. Hanlon offered to return to host our junior and senior students to certify them for radiology. It was explained to us by the Board of Registration in Dentistry that our curriculum covers licensure for Radiology but we are finding that employers are looking for separate certification and it will also better prepare our students for more rigorous exams going forward.*

**The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:40 p.m.**