

University of Washington
School of Dentistry
DDS GRADUATE COMPETENCIES
Revised 2002

In the care of the child, adolescent, adult, geriatric and medically compromised patient, graduates of the University of Washington School of Dentistry shall possess the knowledge, skills, and values to be competent to:

1. Examine a patient using contemporary diagnostic methods to evaluate the head and neck region and to reach a diagnosis of the patient's oral and craniofacial health status. (2-25.a)
2. Communicate the risks and benefits of proposed care and alternative treatment strategies available, then obtain expressed consent for treatment conveyed by a patient or legal guardian. (2-25.d)
3. Formulate a comprehensive treatment plan based on diagnostic findings, then implement treatment in a safe, properly sequenced and timely manner. (2-23, 2-25.b)
4. Provide patient education in the prevention of oral diseases to promote oral and general health. (2-16)
5. Recognize the limits of their expertise and seek consultation with other health care providers to facilitate patient care. (2-15)
6. Manage acute and chronic orofacial and dental pain. (2-25.e)
7. Manage pulpal and periradicular disease. (2-25.i)
8. Manage dental emergencies. (2-25.l)
9. Manage medical emergencies in dental practice by providing basic life support. (2-26)
10. Prescribe and administer pharmacological agents for patient care. (2-25.e)
11. Diagnose and manage hard and soft tissue lesions and diseases of the orofacial complex. (2-25.j, k)
12. Perform uncomplicated oral surgical procedures. (2-25.k)

Note:

The number appearing after each UWSOD competency corresponds to the relevant Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) competency.

Definitions:

- **“Manage”** may include diagnosis, treatment, referral, observation, restoration, replacement, removal, recall.
- **“Services”** may include patient education, preventive therapy.

13. Assess the dentition to determine the need for orthodontic treatment. (2-25.m)
14. Manage periodontal diseases. (2-25.h, k)
15. Assess the teeth and supporting structures and provide preventive services. (2-25.a, c)
16. Manage diseases and conditions of the teeth. (2-25.f)
17. Manage replacement of teeth for the partially or completely edentulous patient. (2-25.g)
18. Practice dentistry within the ethical standards of the dental profession and the law. (2-20; 2-21)
19. Utilize information-technology resources in contemporary dental practice. (2-24)
20. Utilize business and management skills to conduct an efficient and effective clinical practice. (2-18; 2-19)
21. Recognize the role of lifelong learning and self-assessment in maintaining competency. (2-22)
22. Utilize critical thinking in assessing technical and scientific information for use in identifying patient needs and treatments. (2-15; 2-23)
23. Apply the principles of behavioral science that pertain to patient-centered oral health care. (2-16)
24. Evaluate different models of oral health care management and delivery. (2-18)
25. Manage a diverse patient population and have the interpersonal and communication skills to function successfully in a multicultural work environment. (2-17)
26. Evaluate the outcomes of treatment. (2-25.n)

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CODA Competencies from ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

“In these *Standards* the competencies for general dentistry are described broadly. The Commission expects each school to develop specific competency definitions and assessment methods in the context of the broad scope of general dental practice. These competencies must be reflective of an evidence-based definition of general dentistry³. These competencies are statements that define complex actions that represent the knowledge, skills and values required to provide the care necessary to achieve oral health goals.”

“**Competencies:** Written statements describing the levels of knowledge, skills and values expected of graduates.”

“**Competent:** The levels of knowledge, skills and values required by the new graduates to begin independent, unsupervised dental practice.”

The graduate must be competent to:

Biomedical Sciences:

1. apply advances in modern biology to clinical practice and to integrate new medical knowledge and therapies relevant to oral health care. **(2-15)**

Behavioral Sciences:

2. apply fundamental principles of behavioral sciences pertaining to patient-centered approaches for promoting, improving and maintaining oral health. **(2-16)**
3. manage a diverse patient population and have interpersonal and communications skills to function successfully in a multicultural work environment. **(2-17)**

Practice Management:

4. evaluate different models of oral health care management and delivery. **(2-18)**
5. understand the basic principles and philosophies of practice management and have the skills to function successfully as the leader of the oral health care team. **(2-19)**

Ethics and Professionalism

6. apply ethical, legal and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services. **(2-20)**
7. apply the principles of ethical reasoning and professional responsibility as they pertain to patient care and practice management. **(2-21)**
8. recognize the role of lifelong learning and self-assessment in maintaining competency. **(2-22)**

Information Management and Critical Thinking

9. using critical thinking and problem solving related to the comprehensive care of patients. **(2-23)**
10. use information technology resources in contemporary dental practice. **(2-24)**

Clinical Sciences

11. provide oral health care within the scope of general dentistry, as defined by the school, for the child, adolescent, adult, geriatric and medically compromised patient, including:
 - a. patient assessment and diagnosis
 - b. comprehensive treatment planning
 - c. health promotion and disease prevention
 - d. informed consent
 - e. anesthesia, pain and anxiety control
 - f. restoration of teeth
 - g. replacement of teeth
 - h. periodontal therapy
 - i. pulpal therapy
 - j. oral mucosal disorders
 - k. hard and soft tissue surgery
 - l. dental emergencies
 - m. malocclusion and space management
 - n. evaluation of the outcomes of treatment**(2-25)**

12. provide appropriate life support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental practice **(2-26)**

³The practice of evidence-based general dentistry means that the dentist integrates individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic clinical research. Individual clinical expertise includes effective and efficient diagnosis and thoughtful identification and compassionate use of individual patients' predicaments, rights and preferences in making clinical decisions about care. External clinical evidence includes clinically relevant research, often from the basic sciences of medicine and dentistry, but especially from patient-centered clinical research on accuracy and precision of diagnostic tests and clinical examination, power of prognostic markers, and efficacy and safety of therapeutic, rehabilitative and preventive regimens. This definition is taken from, D. L. Sackett, et al, "Evidence-Based Medicine, What it is and What it isn't"; *British Medical Journal*; 312/71-2; January 13, 1996.

Excerpts from CODA Accreditation Standards
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