STANDARD 2 - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Instruction

2-1 The curriculum must include at least two academic years of full-time instruction or its equivalent at the postsecondary college-level. The scope and depth of the curriculum must reflect the objectives and philosophy of higher education. The college catalog must list the degree awarded and course titles and descriptions. In a two-year college setting, the graduates of the program must be awarded an associate degree. In a four-year college or university, the graduates of the program must be awarded an associate degree, certificate, or a baccalaureate degree.

Intent: The time necessary for psychomotor skill development and the number of required content areas require two academic years of study and is considered the minimum preparation for a dental hygienist. However, the curriculum may be structured to allow individual students to meet performance standards specified for graduation in less than two academic years as well as to provide opportunity for students who require more time to extend the length of their instructional program. Maximum opportunity should be provided for students to continue their formal education with a minimum loss of time and duplication of learning experiences. Institutions are strongly encouraged to develop articulation agreements between associate degree programs and baccalaureate programs that provide for maximum transfer of course work. General education, social science and biomedical science courses included in associate degree dental hygiene curricula should parallel those offered in four-year colleges and universities. In baccalaureate degree curricula, attention is given to requirements for admission to graduate programs in establishing the balance between professional and nonprofessional credit allocations.