

Oregon Health & Science University
School of Dentistry
Competency Document for the New General Dentist
Approved May 2008
OHSU Core Competencies Added – August 2013

The practice of dentistry requires a firm foundation in the basic sciences enabling the dentist to discriminate between normal anatomic, histologic and developmental variation and pathological alteration. The dentist must have knowledge of anatomy, histology, embryology, genetics, physiology, neuroscience, biochemistry, biomaterials, microbiology, pharmacology, pathology and behavioral science sufficient to understand the basis for clinical diagnosis and treatment. Knowledge of basic science and the ability to apply that knowledge critically is the foundation of the dental health care professions.
(CODA Standards 2-6, 2-11, 2-12)

As a result of successfully completing the predoctoral dental curriculum the new dentist will be able to:

- 1. Ethics**
Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of professional ethics, health care principles and a familiarity with the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.
(CODA Standards 2-20, 2-21) and (OHSU Core Competency #6)
- 2. Critical Thinking**
Integrate and synthesize information to advance knowledge and skills through critical evaluation of biomedical literature and the application of new science.
(CODA Standards 2-9, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #2 and #3)
- 3. Communication**
Apply interpersonal and communication skills to effectively care for diverse populations of patients and collaborate with other members of the health care team.
(CODA Standards 2-15, 2-16) and (OHSU Core Competency #5 and #7)
- 4. Diagnosis**
Diagnose diseases and abnormalities of the oral cavity and head/neck region. Obtain and assess information relative to systemic health of patients, initiating consultations and referrals to other health care professionals as appropriate. Develop a comprehensive treatment and/or referral plan, based on current oral disease risk analyses' and standards-of-care strategies.
(CODA Standards 2-13, 2-14, 2-19, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #1)
- 5. Oral Health Education**
Educate patients, parents and/or caregivers with individualized instructions for improving nutrition and maintaining good oral health, monitoring and re-evaluating as necessary.
(CODA Standards 2-15, 2-16, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #9)
- 6. Emergencies**
Recognize risk factors for medical emergencies and demonstrate the ability to manage dental and medical emergencies.
(CODA Standards 2-13, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #2)

7. Oral Function

Provide treatment and/or referrals as appropriate with the goal of achieving physiologic form, oral function and health.
(CODA Standards 2-15, 2-19, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24) and
(OHSU Core Competency #1 and #2)

8. Pain Management

Utilize pharmacological therapies and behavioral techniques to prevent or manage pain and anxiety.
(CODA Standards 2-22, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #1 and #2)

9. Risk Principles

Apply principles of risk management, quality improvement, infection control and radiation safety to patient care.
(CODA Standards 2-17, 2-18, 2-23) and (OHSU Core Competency #8)

10. Outcomes

Demonstrate the ability to self-assess competency and evaluate the outcomes of patient-centered dental health care.
(CODA Standards 2-10, 2-16, 2-23, 2-24) and (OHSU Core Competency #4 and #9)

11. Community

Demonstrate the ability to function in community based disease prevention and health promotion activities.
(CODA Standards 2-15, 2-16, 2-19, 2-24, 2-25) and
(OHSU Core Competency #7 and #9)

12. Business

Identify the business principles and programs used in the administration of a dental practice while complying with all regulations, policies and protocols that relate to health, safety and the law.
(CODA Standards 2-17, 2-18, 2-20) and (OHSU Core Competency #10)

History

Approved by the general faculty – February 2001.

Addition approved by the general faculty – June 2002.

Major revision approved by the general faculty – May 2008.

Updated and OHSU Core Competencies added – August 2013.