



**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the DENTAL HYGIENE OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PHILOSOPHY

The Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) is a cooperative program between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Chadron State College (CSC), and Wayne State College (WSC). The purpose of the Program is to recruit and educate traditional and non-traditional students from rural Nebraska that are interested in a career in one of nine health care professions with the expectation that each person will return to rural Nebraska to practice. The program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for the citizens of the state.

COURSE WORK

1. Each student and alternate (hereafter collectively referred to as student (s)) must follow a curriculum designed for this option of RHOP and considered a part of these Program Standards. Careful selection of elective courses is required to meet the course requirements for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program at UNMC. Therefore, the student must consult with the RHOP Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor at CSC before registering for classes.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available and participants must be prepared to enter professional school at the end of two years or less of academic work at Chadron State College. Alternates will typically apply for admission into the UNMC Dental Hygiene Program during their second year at CSC.
3. Each student must obtain approval from the CSC Dental Hygiene Option Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain:

Cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher

Cumulative science GPA of 3.0 or higher

1. A student must earn a "C" or better in each course. A student earning a "D" or "F" in a course will be placed on academic probation and must repeat the course as soon as possible. Failure to remove the "D" or "F" may result in the dismissal of the student from the Program.
2. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on one semester of academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by

the Program Director for the Dental Hygiene Program at UNMC and the Director of Health Professions at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for no longer than one academic year resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP program.

3. Each participant and alternate is required to file a mid-semester grade report with the Health Professions Office when requested.
4. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each participant and alternate must write a journal chronicling their activities that enhance their understanding of the practice of dental hygiene, motivates her/him to become a dental hygienist in rural Nebraska, or enhances their professional development. The student is also expected to record their reactions to and their perceptions of the events to which they have been exposed. The journals must be developed on a computer so that a copy can be printed upon request. A copy of the Journal must be submitted to the Health Professions Office at the end of each semester. The journal is the only record of a student's shadowing and other activities that enhance their professional development. Failure to adequately complete this requirement can be cause for dismissal from the program.
2. Shadowing of dentists and dental hygienists and at times other health care providers on a regular basis is expected. Some of the shadowing experiences must be in rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of what it is like to practice dental hygiene in rural Nebraska. This requirement can be completed during the summer, school vacations, or during school. All shadowing experiences must be noted in the journal. Each participant and alternate must always remember that the function of the Dental Hygiene Option of RHOP is to recruit and prepare people for practicing in rural Nebraska. Hopefully, each student will develop a professional association with one or more practicing dental hygienists in rural Nebraska.
3. Each student must visit the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and their undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.
4. Participants and alternates must visit, work, or volunteer to help with patient care in a dental clinic.
5. Each RHOP student must participate in on-campus activities that enhance their abilities to interact with people. This would include being an active member of the Health Professions Club, meetings with health care providers, helping with Health Professions Showcase and RHOP interviews, and participating in student government. Off-campus activities such as being a camp counselor, etc. are encouraged.
6. Each RHOP student should return to their high school to promote the RHOP program at least once during their studies at CSC.

PERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Participants and alternates must exhibit professional and personal behaviors that reflect positively on them, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Chadron State College. The students must remember that this includes summers and vacations. The students in RHOP are expected to comply with all campus standards of behavior as described in the CSC Student Handbook, as well as RHOP standards **which includes attending classes as scheduled, promptness, exhibiting respect towards fellow students and faculty, displaying initiative and leadership skills.** They are also expected to obey all laws and thus, avoid having any criminal charges brought against them. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action including dismissal from RHOP. The students must also remember that drug and alcohol offenses, felony convictions, etc. can prevent them from getting a license to practice their profession.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, they must have:

1. Met all academic standards.
2. Submitte a complete application through Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service (DHCAS) on the ADEA website in the fall semester of their last year at CSC.
3. Complete all admission requirements to complete the application process at the UNMC College of Dentistry.
4. Consistently demonstrated professional and personal behaviors and attitudes during their time in RHOP that would only enhance their licensure as a dental hygienist as well as their reputation and performance as a dental hygienist in rural Nebraska.

DISMISSAL POLICY

1. Failure to meet probation expectations may be grounds for dismissal from RHOP.
2. Dismissal will be determined by the Program Director for Dental Hygiene and the Director of Health Professions at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor.
3. Illegal and/or unprofessional behavior may result in immediate dismissal from the Program as determined by the Director of Admissions at the COD and Director of Health Professions at the undergraduate institution.
4. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Director of Admissions at the UNMC COD.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in the RHOP Dental Hygiene Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP Interview Team may select a replacement from among the alternates in this class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the RHOP Interview Team may be requested. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution, have not started their last year at their

undergraduate institution, and met all of the course work, academic, and professional development requirements of the RHOP Dental Hygiene Program.

RESIGNATION PROCEDURE

Should a participant or alternate choose to resign their position in RHOP, a formal letter of resignation must be filed with the academic advisor and Health Professions office as soon as possible.

