

School of Dentistry Competencies for The General Dentist

The statements below define the entry-level competencies for the graduating general dentist at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry.

DOMAIN I: FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS

1.1 Critical Thinking

Graduates must be able, in a scientific and research-oriented manner, to analyze, assess and problem-solve.

1.2 Self-Assessment

Graduates must be able to understand and apply the need for self-directed, lifelong learning and the application of new knowledge.

1.3 Biomedical Sciences

Graduates must be able to understand and apply basic biological science principles in patient care delivery.

1.4 Behavioral Sciences

Graduates must be competent in the application of the fundamental principles of behavioral sciences, such as empathy and incorporating patient values, preferences, and needs into the planning and delivery of oral health care.

1.5 Practice Management

Graduates must be able to apply practice management concepts, as well as legal and regulatory compliance, necessary in oral health care delivery.

1.6 Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Graduates must be able to understand their role in the provision and/or support of oral health care services and communicate and collaborate with patients and members of the health care team.

1.7 Ethics and Professionalism

Graduates must demonstrate principles of ethical, humanistic and professional behavior.

1.8 Evidence-Based Care

Graduates must be able to integrate their clinical expertise, the patient's needs and preferences, and the most current, clinically relevant evidence when providing care.

DOMAIN II: PATIENT CARE

2.1 Patient Care

Graduates must be competent in providing patient-centered oral health care in all stages of life within the scope of general dentistry, including:

- 2.1.1** History taking and assessment
- 2.1.2** Diagnosis
- 2.1.3** Treatment planning, prognosis and informed consent
- 2.1.4** Screening and risk assessment for head and neck cancer
- 2.1.5** Referral of patient treatment
- 2.1.6** Health promotion and disease prevention, including caries management
- 2.1.7** Local anesthesia and pain and anxiety control, with consideration for the impact of prescribing practices and substance use disorder.
- 2.1.8** Pharmacological therapy, with consideration for the impact of prescribing practices
- 2.1.9** Restoration of teeth
- 2.1.10** Integrating dental laboratory procedures in patient care support
- 2.1.11** Replacement of teeth including fixed, removable and dental implant prosthodontic therapies
- 2.1.12** Periodontal therapy
- 2.1.13** Pulpal therapy
- 2.1.14** Hard and soft tissue surgery
- 2.1.15** Dental emergencies.
- 2.1.16** Malocclusion and space management.
- 2.1.17** Evaluation of treatment outcomes
- 2.1.18** Infection control procedures
- 2.1.19** Oral mucosal, temporomandibular, and osseous disorders
- 2.1.20** Integrating digital dentistry and emerging technologies

2.2 Treatment of Patients with Special Needs

Graduates must be able to assess and treat patient(s) with complex medical, physical, psychological, social and/or linguistic needs.