

POSITION STATEMENT

Dental Hygiene Education

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA®) opposes policies for alternative dental hygiene licensure pathways for non-hygienists.

The ADHA opposes any policies supporting dental students, residents, and foreign-trained dentists with an alternative pathway to obtain dental hygiene licensure and practice dental hygiene in the United States and increasing the faculty-to-student ratios in dental hygiene education programs.

Allowing those in roles that are complementary to dental hygiene to practice the profession without the same extensive dental hygiene education and practical training is harmful to patients and damaging to the standards of the dental hygiene profession.

U.S. dental hygiene education at programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is deeply comprehensive and includes significant faculty supervision for upholding the highest standards of dental hygiene practice. The curriculum for dentists dedicated to dental hygiene is not comparable.

The ADHA firmly believes that any individual seeking to practice dental hygiene in the U.S. must complete a CODA-accredited dental hygiene education program, and meet the clinical training, examination and practice requirements necessary to earn a dental hygiene license, without exception.