

Initiative Title

*Promote Excellence in Education
through a Dynamic, Evidence-
based Curriculum*

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Dr. Gary Anderson	Dr. Susan Gross
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Ms. Julia Cross	Ms. Lisa Shefchik
Ms. Larissa Denker	Dr. Dan Skaar
	Ms. Jill Stoltenberg

*co-chair

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Theme

- Six principles, and the rationale for them, are presented
- The theme begins with the foundation and moves to the future

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Principle 1

Foundation

- The curriculum enables the development of dental professionals with the foundation of knowledge, skills, and values to provide optimal patient care

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Rationale 1

Foundation

- Competency based education is a necessary first step to excellence in care
- There is a basic core of knowledge, skills, and values that defines the dental profession
- Graduates will be capable of generating their own solutions
- A core of ethical and moral values is essential to the dental profession

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Principle 2

Culture

- The curriculum creates a culture of learning that fosters a respectful and professional environment

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Rationale 2

Culture

- Learning is enhanced in a respectful and professional environment
- In order to practice in a team respect and professionalism are paramount
- Effective mentoring and role modeling require a respectful and professional environment
- A culture of learning fosters a positive and enthusiastic environment
- Patient care is enhanced and accepted in a positive environment

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Principle 3

Relevance/dynamism

- The curriculum is relevant, adaptable, and responsive

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Rationale 3

Relevance/dynamism

- Science and technology are dynamic
- The dental profession has a responsibility to the community
- Learning styles and rates vary
- Patient expectations change
- The learner should be able to apply, extend, and challenge knowledge
- Different career paths should be encouraged, e.g. – combined professional degrees

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Principle 4

Integration

- The curriculum is integrated within and among academic areas and healthcare communities

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Rationale 4

Integration

- Dentistry does not practice in isolation
- Total patient care requires integration and understanding
- We are a public institution and should be involved in the community
- The profession has a responsibility to address access to care, cultural diversity, and social consciousness (giving back). This must be mentored
- Curriculum redundancy is inefficient
- Integration across disciplines and classes helps students learn
- Total patient care requires integration
- Science today is interdisciplinary

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Principle 5

Evidence-based

- The curriculum develops dental professionals who integrate the best evidence with clinical experience

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Rationale 5

Evidence-based

- To provide optimal clinical care practitioners must be able to apply today's best practice/principles
- Discriminative learning requires the combination of best evidence and experience
- "Best evidence" continues to evolve
- Critical thinking can be modeled in order to improve decision making skills

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Principle 6

Life-long

- The curriculum promotes life-long learning

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Rationale 6

Life-long

- Dentistry is dynamic
- A foundation knowledge is not sufficient
- You cannot have excellence without life-long learning
- Life-long learning must be modeled and fostered
- Faculty development models life-long learning

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Summary

1. Foundation
2. Culture
3. Relevance/dynamism
4. Integration
5. Evidence-based
6. Life-long

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