

From: Jill H Sand <JSand@southeast.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 10:34 AM
To: Jill H Sand <JSand@southeast.edu>
Subject: SCC Received Dental Hygiene AAS Program CCPE Approved

Hi,

First, THANK YOU for taking the time to write a letter of support for our SCC Dental Hygiene Program proposal to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education (CCPE). We at SCC appreciate you taking the time to share your support and the need you are experiencing as we collaboratively work to meet the dental hygiene workforce shortage in our state. Thank you to those who attended the meeting and spoke in support of the program.

I am excited to share and wanted to make sure you were the first to know, we received CCPE approval this morning to offer a SCC Dental Hygiene AAS degree with conditions to provide follow-up annual reports for three years (which are also part of the CODA accreditation process annually). We will move forward with hiring a qualified and innovative program director and faculty. If you or any hygienists you know would be interested in applying I will share the job opening once it is approved and posted. In addition we will be hiring adjunct faculty, seeking clinical partners, and developing a dental hygiene advisory board. If you would like to be made aware of and/or included as part of these program developments please let me know.

We will request 24 students with the utilization of weekend and evening lab usage providing diverse options for students as well as patient access. CODA will look at the size of our lab and the number of clinical partners we have as they set the capacity but we are hopeful we can begin to take in 20-24 students at each intake. We are looking to do hybrid/online to attempt to keep people in their rural communities and meet the demand there as well as in Lincoln—we have 6 other online health sciences programs and hope to take the best parts of those in conjunction with meeting CODA standards and partnering with dental offices to allow them to “grow their own” and retain the workforce in their communities.

Our tentative plan and goal is to spend this coming year completing the CODA accreditation requirements/application and developing the program curriculum for **a start date of Fall 2026**. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to collaborating with many of you to support the needs of our dental community and provide excellent, affordable, and accessible dental hygiene education.

Thank you again for your support of this step in the process and I am excited to walk forward with you as the SCC Dental Hygiene program grows!

Thank you!

Jill Sand, MEd, RRT

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