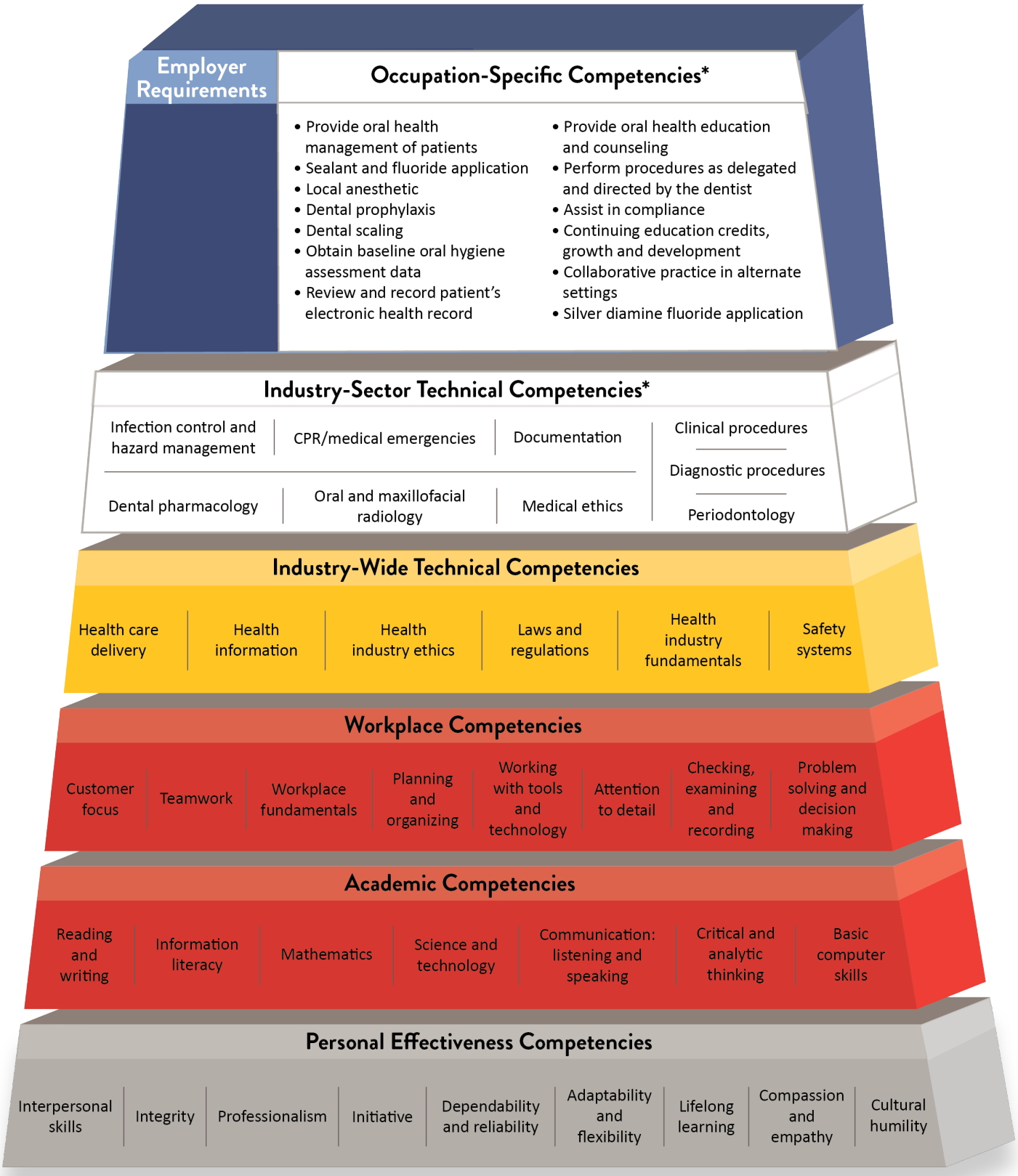
Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline
Competency Model for Health Care Services
Occupation: Dental Hygienist



Based on: Health: Allied Health Competency Model Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor, December 2011.

* Pipeline recommends the Industry-Sector Technical Competencies as formal training opportunities (provided through related instruction) and the Occupation-Specific Competencies as on-the-job training opportunities.

Competency Model for Dental Hygienist

Dental Hygienist – A licensed health care professional who works with the dentist, providing preventive, educational, and therapeutic services for the control of oral diseases and the promotion of both oral and overall health.

Industry-Sector Technical Competencies

Related Instruction for dual training means the organized and systematic form of education resulting in the enhancement of skills and competencies related to the dual trainee's current or intended occupation.

- **Infection control and hazard management** – Understand and practice infection control to ensure a sanitary dental environment for clients.
- **Dental pharmacology** – Knowledge of how drugs and medications used in dental treatment affect patients.
- **Medical ethics** – Understand principles of medical ethics and how they apply in professional standards.
- **Clinical procedures** – Knowledge of core procedures in dentistry, how to accomplish and the rationale behind them.
- **Documentation** – Understanding of written compilation of diagnosis and treatments that transpired during visit.
- **Diagnostic procedures** – Knowledge of evidence-based critical analysis and interpretation of assessments in order to provide the basis for the dental hygiene care plan.
- **Oral and maxillofacial radiology** – Understand general priniciples of radiology, radiation protection, regulations and recent concepts of imaging.
- **Periodontology** – Understand periodontal diseases, assessment, and treatment options.

- **CPR/medical emergencies** – Training including cardiopulmonary resuscitation on adults, children and infants, and medical emergency management.

Occupation-Specific Competencies

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is hands-on instruction completed at work to learn the core competencies necessary to succeed in an occupation. Common types of OJT include job shadowing, mentorship, cohort-based training, assignment-based project evaluation and discussion-based training.

- **Provide oral health management of patients** – Provide services including dental prophylaxis, scaling, sealant application, flouride application, periodontal screening and administering local anesthetic consistent with accepted professional standards.
- **Sealant and fluoride application** – Knowledge of how to prevent the deterioration of enamel which can lead to infection and the need for restorative intervention.
- **Local anesthetic** – Able to perform safe and effective administration techniques.
- **Dental prophylaxis** – Understand how to clean the teeth including removal of plaque, materia alba, calculus, and extrinsic stains as a preventive measure for control of gingivitis.
- **Dental scaling** – Able to remove calculus buildup below the gum line to prevent bacteria that could cause bone loss.
- **Obtain baseline oral hygiene assessment data** – Understanding of basic accepted principles for baseline oral hygiene data.
- **Review and record patient's electronic health record** – Ability to reflect nature of contact, condition and care of patient and treatment provided. This includes patient's vital signs and medical and dental histories.
- **Provide oral health education and counseling** – Knowledge about good nutrition and its impact on oral and overall health.
- **Perform procedures as delegated and directed by the dentist** – Able to do so in accordance with state regulations and law.
- **Collaborative practice in alternate settings** – Ability to commit to advancing oral health professional practice, development of collaborative partnerships, and increasing access points for oral health care delivery.

- **Silver diamine fluoride application**- Know how to stop tooth decay with this process.

- **Assist in compliance** – Understand policies and procedures relative to infection control, exposure control, safety and HIPAA issues.

- **Continuing education credits, growth, and development** – Ability to remain current in CPR at a level required for Minnesota licensure, completion of courses in medical emergencies and infection control as required under the collaborative practice in community settings statute, help increase knowledge of specific topics in the field as well as technological advancements.

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