

**Learning Assessment of Core Outcomes**

**Suggested Focus 2009-2010: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**

**SAC Name: Dental Hygiene**

**Contact Name, phone, and email: Nancy Pilgrim 503-977-4123**

**1. Please describe your plan of action for 2009-2010 Academic Year:**

The Dental Hygiene faculty does incorporate many examples of critical thinking during the 2 year program.

a. Science-based courses are taught with connections made to clinical occurrences

b. Throughout the program students have a number of projects that involve real patients that they are treating in our clinic. This involves taking information that was presented in lecture and involving implementation on a patient. This includes Perio management cases, Modified care of specialized needs patients, Caries risk management projects. The students also build portfolios while in the program to demonstrate connections that they have made over the two years.

We are also working on involving more tests in clinic that involve “**Objective Structured Clinic Exams**”. These exams are most often station exams where the student will demonstrate and be tested on the ability to perform various skills in a clinical setting. This allows the students to demonstrate their ability to use critical thinking skills to negotiate their way through the stations. This is a much better approach to evaluating skills as opposed to simply answering a multiple choice question.

My goal for the SAC is to implement the OSCE to more of our preclinical courses for the next school year.