

270-X-3.04 Alabama Dental Hygiene Program Requirements.

(1) ADHP students must be at least eighteen (18) years of age prior to the time the student makes application to begin training, of good moral character, of good health, a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and must be a graduate of an accredited high school or hold a GED certificate.

(2) All ADHP students **must have had at least twenty-four (24) full months of full time employment as a dental assistant**, or the equivalent of twenty-four (24) full months in Part-time employment week within the three (3) years previous to the student's enrollment in the ADHP. This time must be spent assisting the dentist(s) and/or hygienist(s) at the chair. Fulltime shall mean employment of at least three and one-half (3 1/2) days or thirty (30) hours of Board approved employment per week. Graduates of an approved school of dental assisting will be given credit for such course on a formula determined by the Board.

(3) All ADHP students **must be employed full time** during the effective period of the training permit before being eligible to take the Dental Hygiene Licensure examination. Full time shall mean employment of at least three and one-half (3 1/2) days or thirty (30) hours of Board approved employment per week with their primary certified dentist instructor whose name appears on the training permit. Any dentist licensed and practicing dentistry full time in the State of Alabama may be issued a training permit upon application to the Board of Dental Examiners, which shall have the discretion to grant or deny such permit. No dentist shall be issued a training permit unless certified by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, which shall have the discretion to grant or deny such certification. The certification shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. In the event the certification expires during the effective period of the training permit, the dentist shall be allowed to continue training subject to enrolling in and taking the online certification course. Any dentist who is certified shall be given credit for continuing dental education.

(4) ADHP students may practice only under the direct supervision of the dentist whose name appears on the training permit; however, another dentist employed in the same office who is certified pursuant to this Rule may perform pre and post prophylactic examinations of the ADHP student's patients.

(5) The closing date for accepting applications for training permits for each year will be determined by the Board.

(6) ADHP students are allowed one transfer of their training permit per course year based upon approval by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. During the period of the ADHP student training permit, should the student's employment with their initial Instructor-dentist be terminated, the student will only be allowed to continue in the program if their employment was terminated, for a reason acceptable to the Board. Any ADHP student who fails to be employed or supervised by an instructor certified dentist for more than sixty (60) days during the course of the program shall be dismissed from the ADHP. An ADHP student who has participated in the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program twice unsuccessfully may apply to participate in the program a third time at the discretion of the Board after two (2) years of continual full time employment as a dental assistant.

(7) All ADHP students must attend all sessions of the academic instruction given under the auspices of the Board. An ADHP student who fails to attend any session of academic instruction is no longer eligible for a training permit without consent of the Board. If an ADHP student misses any part of an academic instruction session, the student must submit a written explanation

of the absence within ten (10) business days of the absence to the Board office for review and request permission to continue in the program. An ADHP student who fails to attend all sessions of academic instruction is not eligible for a renewed training permit without consent of the Board.

(8) No dentist shall be permitted to train more than one (1) ADHP student at a time.

(9) ADHP students who obtain training in the ADHP must pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Board, (this includes training permit, examination, certificate and workshop fees), which must be enclosed with the application for training permit. The academic instruction portion of the fee may be refunded only within the first thirty (30) days of issuance and only at the Board's discretion. Statutory Authority Code of Alabama (1975), §§ 20-2-50 et seq., 34-9-43(10).