

**Ala. Admin. Code r. 270-X-3-.04 Alabama Dental Hygiene Program Requirements.**

(1) Each applicant for the ADHP must be at least nineteen(19) years of age when applying to begin training, of good moral character, free of communicable diseases, a citizen of the United States or 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) Each ADHP student 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 within the three (3) years immediately preceding the student's enrollment in the ADHP. That time must have been spent assisting a dentist(s) and/or hygienist(s) at the chair. 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. Graduates of an approved school of dental assisting will be given credit for such course on a formula determined by the Board.

(3) Each ADHP student must be employed full time during the effective period of the training permit before being eligible to take the dental hygiene licensure examinations specified by the Board. 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. "Board approved employment" means employment that can provide the student the opportunity to perform the types and quantities of procedures required by the ADHP. Any dentist licensed and practicing dentistry full time in the State of Alabama may be issued an "ADHP Instructor Certificate" upon completion of the ADHP Instructor Certification Training and application to the Board of Dental Examiners, which shall have the discretion to grant or deny such certification. The issued certification shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance.

(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 ADHP.

(6) ADHP students are allowed one transfer of their training permit per course year, upon written request, and only upon approval by the ADHP or the Board. During the period of the ADHP student training permit, should the student's employment with their initial instructor-dentist be terminated, the student will be allowed to continue in the program only 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) Each ADHP student must attend every academic instruction session. A student who fails to attend any session of academic instruction is no longer eligible for a training permit without consent of the Board, which shall be at the Board's discretion. If an ADHP student misses any part of an academic instruction session, the student must submit a written explanation of the absence within five (5) business days of the absence to the Board office for review and request permission to continue in the program.

(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, education, and instructional materials fees), which must be enclosed with the application. The education portion of the fee may be refunded only within the first thirty (30) days of issuance and only at the Board's discretion.

(10) Any instance of dishonesty of any kind in any way related to the ADHP shall result in dismissal from the program.

(11) The Board may limit the number of participants to ensure adequate function and integrity of the ADHP.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Dental Examiners

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-26, 34-9-43.

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