



CDHA Student Leadership Program

Reference Guide



CDHA student members are our future innovators and leaders, a vital part of the dental hygiene profession. Being a CDHA student representative can help enhance your career and help shape the future of the profession. To become familiar with the CDHA Student Leadership Program, here is a quick reference guide that will help introduce you to the program.

Program Details & Qualifications

- Applicants must be registered full-time students in an accredited dental hygiene program.
- Applicants in an 18-month to two-year program must be first-year students. This is to ensure that the selected student representative can serve as the junior student representative for a minimum of six months and then transition to the senior student representative for a minimum of six months (but ideally for one year).
- Applicants must submit a completed application package to CDHA.
- Each fall, CDHA will select one junior student representative (JR) per school to assist and shadow/be mentored by the existing senior student representative (SR). The JR will move to the position of SR next year and will be required to assist in the recruitment and mentoring of the subsequent JR next fall.

Student Representative Roles & Responsibilities

Student representatives will serve as the primary liaison between CDHA and faculty and students, promoting CDHA membership, programs and services. Student representatives are a critical component of effective communication between students, faculty and CDHA. Student representatives:

- Act as a liaison between students and the association and to bring any issues/suggestions/feedback to the association;
- Relay key messages from the association to the student body and faculty;
- Assist with recruiting new JRs by encouraging applicants;
- Promote and encourage student membership in CDHA via recruitment contest and other initiatives;
- Collaborate with faculty to distribute materials to promote student membership and recruit new student members;
- Participate in conference calls with CDHA staff to address key issues. Provide status updates via teleconferences once per semester;
- Mentor new students and future student leaders. Student leaders make a commitment to help students navigate the dental hygiene program and membership with CDHA. They also teach students what they've learned and encourage him or her as they take on new challenges; and
- Submit student leadership news and events for publication in *Oh Canada!* and the e-newsletter.

Application Package & Selection Process

Students must meet the requirements and submit a completed application package available at www.cdha.ca/studentleader.

Applicants will be selected based on meeting the application requirements, ability to commit to the position during the academic year, professionalism and commitment to advancing the dental hygiene profession. Applicants must also demonstrate strong communication and interpersonal skills, exhibit leadership, initiative, dependability, discipline and self-confidence. Selection will be based on the collected application packages and evaluation of the questionnaire.

The applications of those not selected will be retained for future reference in the event an individual who has been offered a position is unable to fulfill his/her role. All selection decisions will be announced by email.

NEW! Student Leadership Bursary courtesy of

The selected JR is eligible to receive a bursary courtesy of Colgate to support his/her dental hygiene education. A minimum of \$285 will be provided to each selected JR once he/she transitions to the SR position the following fall.

Welcome & Introductions

In the early fall, JRs who have transitioned to the role of SR will participate in a welcome back teleconference. At the beginning of the calendar year, newly selected JRs will participate along with SRs in an introductory teleconference.

Questions? Contact

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