1. Assessment information collected

The UAF-CTC Dental Hygiene program graduated 5 students with an AAS in Dental Hygiene in May 2013 (the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) mandates an instructor to student ratio of 1:5, the program graduates 5 students every other year: the next class will matriculate May 2015). All 5 graduates have taken and passed the assessments that are required to obtain a license in the State of Alaska as a registered dental hygienist. Those assessments are the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE) and the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) regional exam which includes Process of Care, local anesthesia, and clinical dental hygiene. There is a 94% passing rate for NBDHE on the first attempt and a 100% passing score of the WREB for all dental hygiene graduates of the UAF/CTC program. All previous graduates have been licensed in the State of Alaska.

All 2013 graduates successfully completed the academic requirements of the AAS in dental hygiene with a grade of C or better. All current students have completed the required dental hygiene courses with a grade of C or better.

Contact with the 5 students who graduated in May 2013 are all practicing dental hygiene in the Fairbanks and surrounding community. They all expressed they feel they were “very well prepared in my career” to practice Dental Hygiene and feel confident in their career in dental hygiene. They are all working as many days as they want to work; the repeated commented was “a hygienist can work as many days as they want;” indicating dental hygiene positions were available and unfilled. One student expressed an interest in the Bachelor of Dental Hygiene degree being offered in the future.

There are currently 5 students in the dental hygiene program who will graduate May 2015. They are currently all passing all didactic and clinical coursework with the required grade of C or better. No remedial instruction has been required by any students. Successful completion of all didactic and clinical courses, as well as passing the NBDHE and WREB, are required in order for the students to obtain a license to practice Dental Hygiene in the State of Alaska.
2. **Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above**

Based on the information from the recent graduates, the recent graduates feel they received the knowledge and skills, both in didactic and clinical, to be successful in their careers. All students are currently employed in offices to the capacity they desire.

It is important to develop and maintain professional relationships within the dental community for networking and establish contacts for future and continued employment. An effective way to develop these relationships is to be a member and be active in the local and state dental hygiene organizations; Midnight Sun Dental Hygiene Association (MSDHA) and the Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association (ASDHA) respectively. Graduates and students may also join the Fairbanks area dentist’s association, the North Central District Dental Society. UAF/CTC dental hygiene students’ participation in membership in these organizations is voluntary and there is a fee required to be a student member.

3. **Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above**

Curricular changes are not required to address professional involvement for support and networking of future employment.

A. The following have been added to class requirements:

1. Students are required to attend programs sponsored by the MSDHA and the ASDHA which encourages networking and continued professional development

2. Development of a resume using the Career Services guidance at UAF

3. Conduct mock interviews utilizing current dentists and dental professionals

B. Explore the opportunity to increase fee to cover the expense of membership in American Dental Hygiene Student Association fee to allow the students to benefit from involvement in their professional organization while still attending UAF/CTC dental hygiene program.

C. Explore the opportunity to develop a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene or requirements for degree completion for a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. This would require a full evaluation of the dental hygiene curriculum and assessment of the structure of the current lower and upper division classes.

4. **Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting**

Myself, Cathy Winfree, Jenifer Filotei