

# Dental Hygiene 2016 National Board Exam

Department/Program: **Dental Hygiene** · Project Dates: **Spring 2017**  
Project Leader: **Elsa Eccles, RDH, M.Ed.**

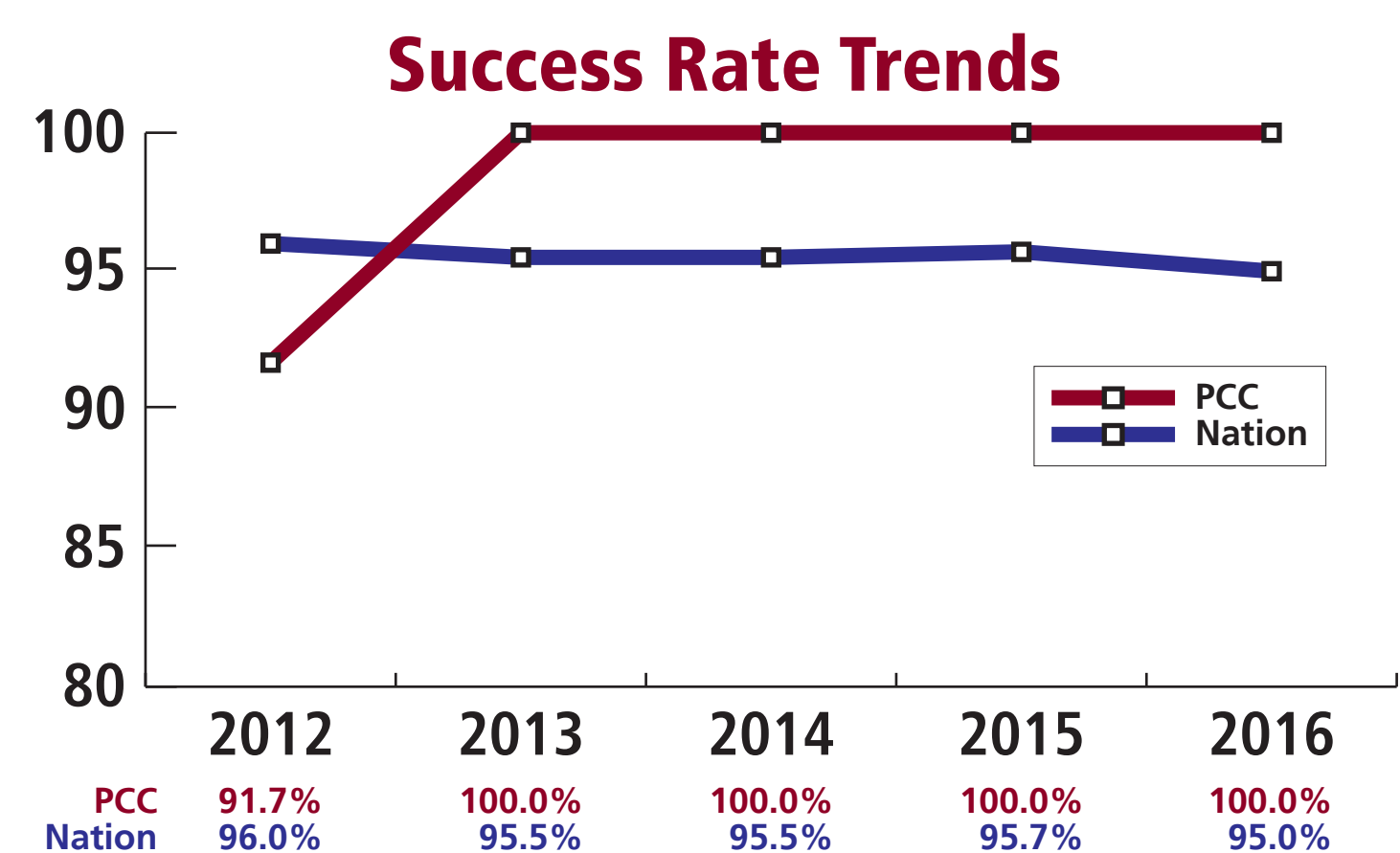


## Problem

The Dental Hygiene student must graduate from an accredited institution, pass two exams and submit for licensure to become a Registered Dental Hygienist. One of the exams that the students must take is the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE). The program's goal is to provide a quality education that prepares the dental hygiene student to take and successfully pass this exam.

## Plan

The program intends to collect and analyze data based on the performance of the students on this exam. The program goal is to have a 100% pass rate, with 14/14 students scoring at or above the national average in 13/14 categories. If the data determines that students have scored below the national average, the program will make changes to the curriculum to ensure they have the knowledge to be successful in the future.

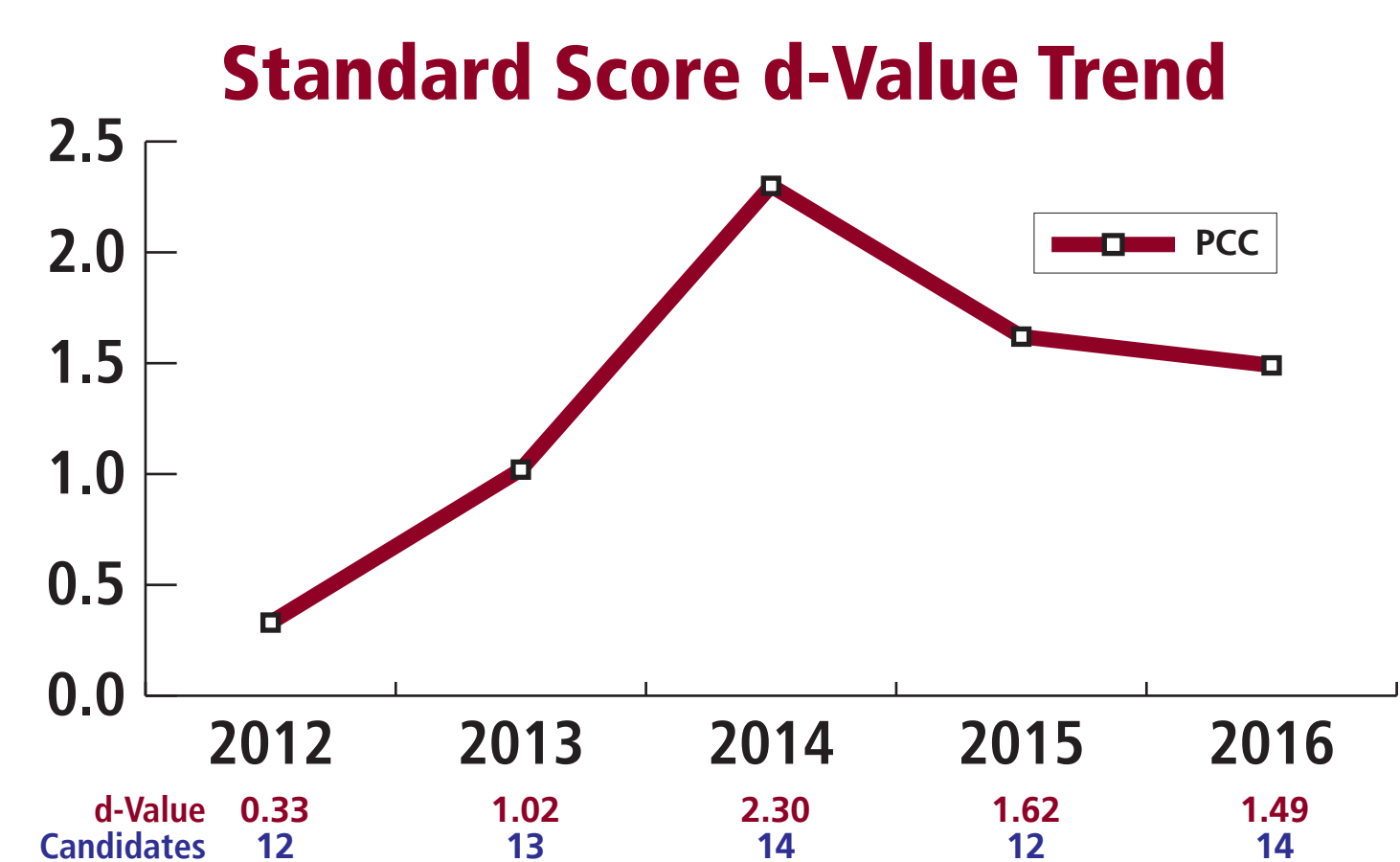


## Assessment Activity

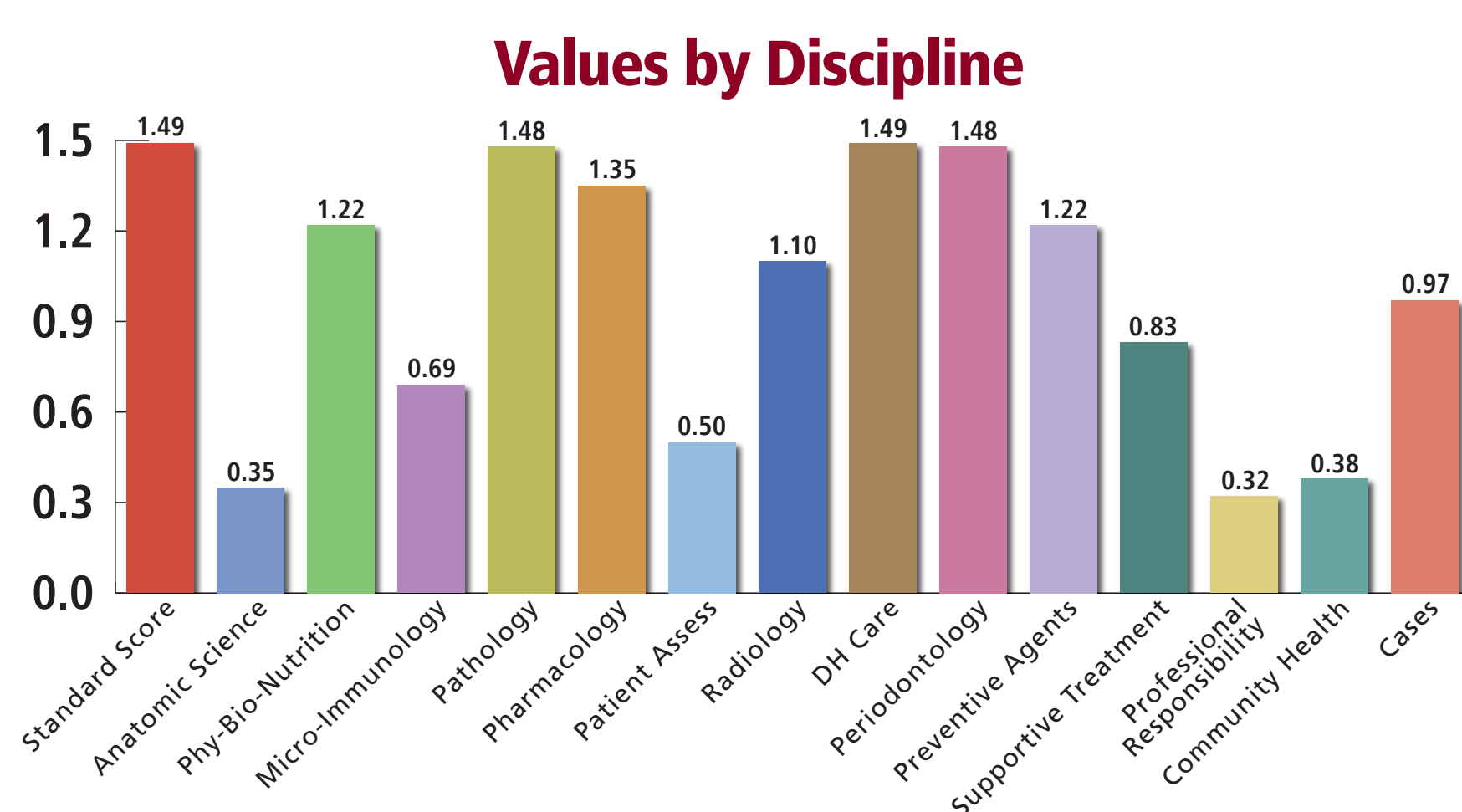
All courses in the Dental Hygiene program contribute to student success on the National Board Exam. Some activities used to prepare the students include: case studies, written and skill evaluations, presentations, projects, papers, peer feedback, formative and summative reviews. Evidence of student learning is gathered and analyzed in the spring when the report from the American Dental Association is received. Findings from a comparative analysis of DEH 266: National Board Review are reported to faculty, students and the advisory board.

## Results and Data

In the 2016 examination year, 14/14 or 100% of the students participated in the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam and 100% of the students passed the exam on the first attempt. PCC DH students scored above the national average in 14/14 or 100% of the exam categories. The overall 2016 program average on the exam, D-Value average (with standard deviation = 0), was 1.49 above the national average of 0.



## Closing the Loop & Next Steps



Comparing 2016 results with data from the last six years continues to demonstrate that PCC students score above the national average overall, but it is important to also compare subject categories to determine areas in which we score either closer to or below the national average. In 2016, the program identified the following categories as lower-performing areas: Anatomic Sciences, Patient Assessment, Professional Responsibilities and Community. Based on the data, faculty will close the loop by making improvements and curricular changes, including incorporating more case studies, curriculum content, and board review questions in each of the categories to enhance student understanding in those areas.