

## **ODHA STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROFILE – Barbara Wang**

**SCHOOL: Oxford College**



### **What made you want to become a dental hygienist?**

Having worked in sales for almost nine years before COVID changed multiple aspects of our lives, I took a step back to review my career development plan and goals. While most jobs were adversely impacted by the pandemic, the fields of medicine and healthcare remained robust in terms of opportunities. Considering that I had intended to go to medical school in college but never fulfilled that aspiration, I began researching approaches that would give me a second chance at working in the health care profession. After collecting sufficient data on various potential options, I decided to pursue a career in dental hygiene. This choice doesn't require extensive schooling, offers a variety of career trajectories, and aligns with my ambition of becoming a health care professional.

### **What type of practice setting do you hope to work in?**

Having worked as an employee for nearly nine years, I believe it's the right time to pursue a career as an independent contractor. I plan to kick-start my dental hygiene career by temping at various dental offices, from general practices to periodontal clinics. After one year of clinical practice, I intend to expand my skill set by taking a continuing education course in orthodontics, which I hope will lead to new opportunities for enhanced patient care and professional advancement. In the meantime, I am keen on continuing to deliver oral hygiene education workshops at multiple community centers.

### **How will you celebrate your graduation?**

I believe it's too early to celebrate my graduation, as I still need to prepare for the board exam and obtain licensure with the regulatory body. When I pass the exam, I'll celebrate by taking a short trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

### **What do you think dental hygiene students should know about their free student membership?**

There is a wealth of useful information on the ODHA website for dental hygiene students. The fact sheets on various aspects of oral health were particularly helpful for my school assignments. The free student membership also offers a wide selection of benefits and services, such as discounted rates on car rentals, scrubs, hotels, and insurance. The Students/Grads section provides detailed guidance on navigating the dental hygiene program and becoming registered to practice in Ontario. Moreover, student members have access to career resources and continuing education options, which are essential for maintaining the required standards of practice and pursuing professional development.

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For more information on the ODHA student ambassador program, visit

<https://odha.on.ca/students/student-ambassador-program/>