

AI-Boosted Soft Skills Lab

Discipline: Dentistry

Focus: Professional, Communication, Simulation

Overview

Dental students need technical, reasoning, and interpersonal skills in a short time, and accreditation standards continue to add competencies, but there is no structured way to teach soft skills. This elective uses generative AI to simulate real-life scenarios for low-stress, self-guided practice, combined with peer learning.

Format

- Eight-week elective open to all levels, for roughly 10–12 students.
- Students practice with AI-simulated scenarios, then compare, explore, discuss, reflect, advise, assess, and lead.

Skills addressed

Ethics, professionalism, reflection, ethical AI use, critical thinking, self-assessment, leadership and teamwork, and cultural competence.

Tools

Generative AI chatbots

Adapting it

AI role-play works for rehearsing difficult conversations in health professions, advising, teaching, and management courses, followed by peer debrief.

From the 2025–26 Teaching Innovation Institute (TII) cohort, University of Kentucky. Sources: 2025 TII Showcase posters (December 3, 2025) and the 2025–26 TII Project Takeaways survey.