

Dental Hygiene

AAS Degree

The Dental Hygiene program prepares graduates to provide a wide range of dental health care services for the public. The need for their specialized intra-oral professional services and their prevention-oriented educational services is increasing. Dental hygienists are in great demand to provide dental health care in private dental offices, civil service positions, school programs, and various public health fields. Our program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association. Graduates are eligible to write the National Board Examination and all Regional Board Examinations for licensure. Upon successful completion of these exams, our graduates are licensed and fully qualified to practice as dental hygienists.

Faculty and Staff: Kim Cameron, Theresa Hollowell,
Marian Peck, Wanda Scott

Prerequisites

You should either demonstrate proficiencies in reading, English, and mathematics based on scores on assessment tests or take the recommended classes. If you have not taken these tests, see a counselor for information or referral to testing. Some courses listed below have specific prerequisites. See course descriptions for these prerequisites.

Prerequisite Courses			Credits
BIO	110	Anatomy & Physiology	4
BIO	130	Microbiology	4
CHM	100	Fundamentals of Chemistry	4
ENG	110	College Writing I	3
HCR	118	Cell Biology for Health Careers	2
MATH	080	Basic Arithmetic	1
RSS	121	Intermediate Reading Skills	2

General Education

General education is an important part of this program. These courses prepare you to fill leadership positions as you advance in your career and to make educated decisions about your life as well as your career. Many courses in general studies are available to take as electives.

Course Sequence

This is the sequence of courses for full-time students. General and elective courses may be taken in any semester. It is advisable for students with time constraints to take general education courses before starting the program. If you are transferring dental hygiene courses from another college, the dental hygiene program chairperson will make necessary changes to this sequence.

Semester I			Credits
DHY	101	Oral Morphology & Occlusion	3
DHY	104	Oral Histology & Embryology	2
DHY	110	DHY Clinical Techniques	3
COM	113	Interpersonal Communication	3
NUT	130	Nutrition in Disease Prevention ¹	3
RCP	125	Basic Cardiac Life Support	1
WPE	000	Wellness & Physical Education Elective	2

Semester II			Credits
DHY	102	Dental Radiography	3
DHY	112	DHY Clinical Techniques II	1
DHY	121	Patient Management	2
DHY	159	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	4
DHY	204	Oral Pathology	2
DHY	215	Periodontology	2
PSY	150	Introductory Psychology	3

Summer Semester			Credits
DHY	169	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3
DHY	211	Anatomy of the Head & Neck	2

Semester III			Credits
DHY	170	Preventive & Interceptive Orthodontics	2
DHY	201	Dental Materials and Specialties	4
DHY	249	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
SOC	102	Principles of Sociology	3

Semester IV			Credits
DHY	206	Pharmacology & Anesthesiology	2
DHY	221	Ethics, History & Jurisprudence	1
DHY	259	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
DHY	260	Community Dental Hygiene	3
PSI	000	Political Science Elective	3

¹ It is recommended that NUT 130 be taken along with the prerequisites, but it may be taken during semester I of the Dental Hygiene Program.

Standards of Progress

In order to remain in the Dental Hygiene program, progress to the next semester, complete this program, graduate and be eligible for board examinations, each student must earn a grade of at least 2.0 in each required course in the disciplines of DHY, BIO, RCP, and NUT.

Application and Acceptance Process

Enrollment in this program is limited. Students must complete all prerequisites, make special application, and be accepted before being allowed to enroll in the Dental Hygiene courses. A separate application, medical history, physical exam, and immunizations are required. If you have questions about this program or how to apply to it, call our Health Careers Admissions Coordinator at 488-4144.