

Dental Hygiene (Degree)

Associate of Applied Science Degree 1,810 Contact Hours 88.50 Semester Credits 70 Instructional Weeks – Full Time	Program offered at: Memphis, Tennessee
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Dental Hygiene (Degree) Mission Statement

The program provides students with theoretical knowledge, technical skills, and professional attributes necessary to qualify for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist and entry-level employment as a Dental Hygienist. The program aims to guide students in developing professional commitment, community involvement, and continued research. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.

Learning Objectives / Instructional Outcomes

The program includes general education courses covering mathematics, written, verbal and nonverbal communications; interpersonal skills; critical thinking; the sciences; and the humanities. Learning objectives prepare students through an array of skill sets with learning objectives that include extra-oral and intraoral exams, periodontal and dental exams, patient history reviews, vital sign checks, and risk assessments. Program graduates will recognize, respect, and act with consideration for individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs.

Career Overview

Dental Hygienists are licensed, professional oral clinicians and dental health educators who prevent and treat oral disease, promote and encourage preventive aspects of dental care, and assume responsibility for patient care in the dental office. They provide a variety of services to patients, including comprehensive examination of the oral cavity, radiographs, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, patient education, and preventive services. They are required to pass written and clinical examinations before they apply for licensure to practice. Dental Hygienists are integral members of the dental team who use their dental, clinical, and social sciences to aid individuals in achieving optimum oral health. Besides working in a private dental practice, Dental Hygienists also work as educators, administrators, and researchers.

In order to graduate from the Dental Hygiene (Degree) program, students must successfully complete the following curriculum:

Course #	Course Title	Theory Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Semester Credit Hours
ENGL1310	English Composition I	45			3.00
SOCI1310	Introduction to Sociology	45			3.00
BIOL1330	Microbiology	45			3.00
BIOL1405	Anatomy & Physiology	60			4.00
CHEM1310	Chemistry	45			3.00
MATH1320	College Algebra	45			3.00
PSYC1310	General Psychology	45			3.00
COMM1310	Elements of Human Communication	45			3.00
DH101	Dental Hygiene I	30	90		5.00
DH102	Dental Hygiene II	30	60	80	5.50
DH103	Dental Radiography	30	30		3.00
DH104	Dental Materials	15	30		2.00
DH105	Dental Anatomy/Tooth Morphology	60			4.00
DH110	Oral Embryology & Histology	45			3.00
DH111	Dental Office Emergencies	15			1.00
DH201	Dental Hygiene III	30		135	5.00
DH202	Dental Hygiene IV	30		185	6.00
DH203	Periodontology	45			3.00
DH206	Dental Pharmacology	45			3.00
DH207	Dental Hygiene Seminar	30			2.00
DH209	Nutrition	45			3.00
DH224	Dental Public Health	45			3.00
DH226	Dental Law/Ethics	30			2.00
DH227	Board Review	45			3.00
DH228	Oral Pathology	45			3.00
DH300	Dental Office Management	30			2.00
DH301	Dental Hygiene V	30		150	5.00
	Subtotals	1,050	210	550	88.50