

Dental Hygiene

Program

A registered dental hygienist is a licensed member of the oral health team who is responsible for assessing the oral health status of his/her patient and providing individualized preventive treatment. Men and women choose this caring profession because it is a challenging and rewarding career with the security of a professional license and the responsibility of direct patient care. Treatment often provided by a dental hygienist includes: taking social, medical and dental histories; assessing the patient's oral health and planning preventive treatment; making radiographic surveys (x-rays); providing individual oral health care instructions; removing deposits from teeth (cleaning); administering fluoride therapy; and placing dental sealants. Most dental hygienists practice in a private dental office. However, some seek employment in public health settings, specialty practices, school systems, industry, federal services and higher education. The need for licensed dental hygienists continues to grow as the demand for access to preventive oral health care increases.

The Associate Degree program at Rhodes State College provides the student with an excellent dental hygiene education, encouraging personal and professional growth. The faculty are committed to offering the highest level of instruction to each student. All clinical instruction, assessment and evaluation is provided by licensed dental hygienists and dentists in the modern, well-equipped Dental Hygiene Clinic. Dental health activities are integrated throughout the program preparing graduates to be vital members of the community. The curriculum is a combination of classroom, laboratory and clinical courses providing the student with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice dental hygiene. Emphasis is given to assisting the student to appreciate the value of comprehensive dental hygiene care.

Mission Statement

The Dental Hygiene Program prepares students to become competent oral healthcare professionals.

Accreditation

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/100.aspx>. The program has held this accreditation status since inception in 1976.


Notice to Current or Prospective Dental Hygiene Students

You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. You may not be able to participate in clinical education experiences required to complete the program. A criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining a license or certificate in your chosen healthcare profession.


Curriculum

First Year

Fall

BIO 1110	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
COM 1110 	English Composition	3
DHY 1010	Dental Hygiene Preclinic	4
DHY 1200	Orofacial Anatomy	2
DHY 1460	Oral Radiography	3
DHY 1511	Preventive Concepts I	3
Term Hours		19

Spring


BHS 1330	Foundations in Pharmacology	1
BIO 1120	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
DHY 1030	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	3
DHY 1301	Oral Histology and Pathology	3
DHY 1521 	Preventive Concepts II	3
DHY 1660	Pain Control Management	2
Term Hours		16

Summer





BIO 1400	Microbiology	4
CHM 1120	Introductory Organic & Biochem	4
DTN 1220	Principles of Nutrition	2
MTH 1370	College Algebra	
or MTH 1151	Quantitative Reasoning	3-4
Term Hours		13-14

Second Year

Fall

DHY 2010	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	4
DHY 2140	Dental Materials	2
DHY 2340	Periodontology	2
DHY 2510	Preventive Concept III	2
PSY 1010 	General Psychology	3
Term Hours		13

Spring

DHY 2020	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	4
DHY 2540  	Dental Hygiene Capstone Course	1
DHY 2770	Community Dental Health	2
SOC 1010 	Sociology	3
DHY 2662 	Current Concepts	1
Term Hours		11
Total Hours		72-73

 = Portfolio Course

 = Capstone Course

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Qualification Requirements

All students who apply for acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program have their name placed on a qualified list after they meet the program qualifications listed below.

Students seeking admission are encouraged to review the qualification requirements early due to the amount of time required to complete the process. Names are listed on the qualified list, in order, using the date on which the documentation was received, verifying that the admission criteria is met. In the event that two or more students qualify on the same day, the date of application to the College is used to rank order these students.

In addition to the general admission requirements for all students, the following specific requirements must be completed before being added to qualified list:

1. Attend a mandatory program specific orientation.
2. Have a minimum 2.75 grade point average (GPA) for any previous college level course work at the time of selection and matriculation.
3. Complete all required college level or developmental level math, writing and reading courses and prerequisites with a grade of D or higher, and all college level or development level science requirements and prerequisites with a grade of C or higher; or equivalent placement.

Once the student is admitted into the Dental Hygiene program, the program admitted students must show completion of the below requirements three weeks prior to start of term:

1. Complete SDE 1010 First Year Experience or have previous college prior to admission to the program.
2. Complete 16 hours of observation of a dental hygienist in a dental office. Four (4) of these hours can be earned by completing treatment as patient in the Dental Hygiene Clinic. Waiver for dental office experience will be considered on an individual basis by the chairperson.
3. Attend a mandatory Dental Hygiene comprehensive orientation with the dental hygiene department chairperson.
4. Provide written results of physical and dental examinations, completion of required laboratory tests and completion of required immunizations to include the first two hepatitis B inoculations.
5. Complete the American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider) or American Red Cross (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers) course. CPR certification must be maintained through to graduation.
6. Dental Hygiene program admits students once a year in Fall Semester. Note: Two seats in each class will be designated for Tech Prep and/or College Credit Plus students who have met the minimal qualifications.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Dental hygiene students provide services in the oral cavity where they come in contact with blood and saliva. Although diseases may be encountered, research indicates that risks are negligible when optimal infection control is practiced. Upon entering the program, current infection control measures and practice are presented to the students by qualified faculty. Compliance of these practices is assessed and evaluated throughout the students' clinical experience to ensure a safe working environment.

Prior to entering the program, all new Health Sciences Division students will receive the Division of Health Sciences Infectious Disease Policy. This comprehensive document demonstrates the College's commitment to protecting students' rights, to educating students about infectious diseases, and to taking every reasonable precaution to provide a safe educational and work environment.

Reentry or Admission with Advanced Standing

Students seeking reentry to the Dental Hygiene Program may be accepted one time on a space available basis. A student who withdrew or was academically disqualified the previous academic year must be in good standing with the College and follow the prescribed procedures stated in the program's Reentry Policy. This document is published in the Clinic Manual and is available upon request from the Office of the Chairperson of Dental Hygiene.

- Advanced standing may be granted to a transfer student when courses are equivalent and were completed within the accepted time frame:
- Dental Hygiene courses: within the previous academic year
- Related (Basic) Studies courses: within the previous five years

Radiation Monitoring

For educational and training purposes, students under the age of 18 are held to the same radiation exposure limits as members of the general public (5mSv/year). This limit is 1/10 that of the occupational exposure limit which is 50mSv/year. Experience has shown that considerably lower exposures than this are routine. The occupational radiation exposure of radiologic personnel engaged in general x-ray activity should not normally exceed 1mSV/year. (Bushong, 2004, NCRP Report N. 32)

Dental Hygiene Licensure

Graduates of the program are awarded an Associate Degree of Applied Science. Upon successful completion of the program, the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) Dental Hygiene Examination, and the Ohio Jurisprudence Examination, graduates will be eligible to apply for state licensure.

Technical Standards

All applicants for the Health Sciences programs and certificates must possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum either with or without reasonable accommodations for any disabilities the individual may have. * Note: The use of an intermediary that in effect requires a student to rely on someone else's power of selection and observation will not be permitted.

For More Information, Contact:

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