

DENTAL HYGIENE (AAS)

Associate of Applied Science

Career-Technical Program

Interest Areas: Healthcare

The Dental Hygiene program prepares students for entry into the dental hygiene profession as licensed clinicians (Registered Dental Hygienist-RDH). Dental Hygienists provide preventive, therapeutic, restorative, and procedures to control oral disease and promote optimal oral health. The Dental Hygiene program includes instruction in dental anatomy, microbiology, and pathology; dental hygiene theory and techniques; dental materials; radiology; patient education and counseling; and office management and professional standards. Clinical education experiences are integrated throughout the curriculum and offer students the opportunity to gain competency through practice each semester.

Upon completion of this program, graduates will be eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination (NBDHE), and the regional and or state clinical and local anesthesia examinations. Applicants are encouraged to contact the State Board of Dentistry in the states in which they wish to practice for individual licensing requirements.

Dental Hygiene is a competitive entry program. Students are admitted to the program every other year. The prerequisite course requirements are open to all students. The AAS degree may be obtained in a 24-month course of study following acceptance to the program. A minimum grade point average of B or 3.0 is required in all DENT courses, which includes BIOL-207 and PHAR-150.

Contact Information:

Health Professions Division

Meyer Health and Sciences Building, Room 257

Phone: (208) 676-7132

Program Website (https://www.nic.edu/programs/viewprogram.aspx?program_id=101)

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Semester 1		
BACT-250	General Microbiology	4
BIOL-175 or BIOL-227	Human Biology or Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
CHEM-102	Essentials of Organic and Biochemistry	4
COMM-101	Fundamentals of Oral Communications	3
ENGL-101	Writing and Rhetoric I	3
PSYC-101	Introduction to Psychology	3
SOC-101	Introduction to Sociology	3
GEM 3 - Mathematical Ways of Knowing		3-5
	Credits	27-29
Semester 2		
DENT-100	Dental Hygiene Pre-Clinic	3
DENT-110	Head, Neck, Oral, and Dental Anatomy	4
DENT-115	Oral Health Education	2

DENT-120	Oral Radiography	3
	Credits	12
Semester 3		
DENT-125	Embryology, Histology, and Morphology	2
DENT-130	Periodontology I	2
DENT-150	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	3
DENT-151	Dental Hygiene Theory I	3
PHAR-150	Introduction to Pharmacology	3
	Credits	13
Semester 4		
DENT-200	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	4
DENT-201	Dental Hygiene Theory II	1
DENT-215	Oral Pathology/Immunology	2
DENT-230	Periodontology II	2
DENT-235	Pain Management	3
BIOL-207	Concepts in Human Nutrition	3
	Credits	15
Semester 5		
DENT-240	Community Dental Health	3
DENT-245	Advanced Instrumentation	1
DENT-250	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	4
DENT-260	Dental Materials	3
DENT-270	Dental Hygiene Review/Ethics and Law	2
	Credits	13
	Total Credits	80-82

Course Key



GEM



WICHE
Passport



AAS
Institutionally
Designated



Gateway



Milestone

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Apply principles of ethical reasoning, decision-making and professional responsibility in the provision and support of evidence-based oral health care services, research, patient care and practice management.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving and self-evaluation in the provision of comprehensive care, patient management strategies, and professional competence development.
- Plan educational strategies and clinical services for individuals with periodontal diseases using appropriate interpersonal communication, comprehensive data collection, and knowledge of periodontal conditions and therapies.
- Access, critically appraise, apply and communicate evidence-based practices for all periodontal classifications within diverse patient populations.
- Demonstrate interpersonal communication and collaborative skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups, health care providers, dental professionals, and community groups.
- Apply refined instrumentation skills for periodontal, restorative and therapeutic interventions for individuals at all stages of life.
- Apply behavioral sciences and patient centered approaches to promote, improve and maintain oral health.

- Use assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation for the provision of dental hygiene services and disease prevention strategies within diverse, multicultural and special needs populations, and community groups.
- Demonstrate use of mathematical and statistical concepts in the application of clinical and preventative dental care strategies.
- Use appropriate library and information resources to research professional issues, develop community health program planning and to support lifelong learning.

In addition to the program outcomes, students will meet the following North Idaho College General Education (GEM) Requirements: Written and Oral Communication; Mathematical Ways of Knowing; Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing; and an additional program-designated or selected course from any of the GEM requirements.

DENTAL HYGIENE (DENT)

DENT-100 Dental Hygiene Pre-Clinic

3 Credits

Lecture: 1 hour per week, **Lab:** 6 hours per week

Offering: Spring Only, Odd Years

This course is an introduction to the dental hygiene process of care with emphasis on professionalism, basic instrumentation skills and patient assessment processes.

Corequisites: DENT-110, DENT-115, DENT-120

DENT-110 Head, Neck, Oral, and Dental Anatomy

4 Credits

Lecture: 3 hours per week, **Lab:** 3 hours per week

Offering: Spring Only, Odd Years

This course presents the anatomy of the human facial structures and comprehensive study of the anatomy of the head and neck as well as the surrounding hard and soft tissues. The dental hygiene student will develop a firm foundation in the anatomy of the head, neck, and oral structures. Topics presented include the formation of the face, development and growth of the jaws, and the origin and stages of tooth and root formation and development. This course presents an in-depth coverage of the anatomy of the teeth and surrounding soft tissues.

Corequisites: DENT-100, DENT-115, DENT-120

DENT-115 Oral Health Education

2 Credits

Lecture: 2 hours per week

Offering: Spring Only, Odd Years

This course instructs dental hygiene students in the methods used to prevent oral disease, modify behaviors, and educate patients. Students will apply preventative oral health concepts and develop individualized oral health care plans in clinical dental hygiene and community health environments.

Corequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-120

DENT-120 Oral Radiography

3 Credits

Lecture: 1 hour per week, **Lab:** 6 hours per week

Offering: Spring Only, Odd Years

This course will cover historical background, terminology, concepts and principles of x-radiation, x-ray generation, radiologic health and safety measures, normal radiographic dental anatomy, and radiographic legalities. Film technique including critiquing, exposing, processing, and mounting will also be explored. Laboratory work provides skills in dental radiographic exposure on mannequins as well as processing techniques. Through combined lecture and laboratory sessions, students will gain experience in digital radiography, intraoral photography and extraoral radiography.

Corequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-115

DENT-125 Embryology, Histology, and Morphology

2 Credits

Lecture: 2 hours per week

Offering: Fall Only, Odd Years

This course will enable the dental hygiene student to develop a basic understanding of the microscopic structure of the primary and dental tissue groups of the human body. Gained knowledge enables the student to relate embryonic development to the normal and abnormal structures of the head and oral cavity, preparing the student to differentiate between normal and abnormal clinical manifestations in subsequent courses.

Prerequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-115, DENT-120

Corequisites: DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151

DENT-130 Periodontology I

2 Credits

Lecture: 2 hours per week

Offering: Fall Only, Odd Years

This course provides a detailed study of the various periodontal diseases, with emphasis on histological and clinical recognition as well as treatment of the diseases.

Prerequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-115, DENT-120

Corequisites: DENT-125, DENT-150, DENT-151

DENT-150 Dental Hygiene Clinic I

3 Credits

Lab: 9 hours per week

Offering: Fall Only, Odd Years

In this course, the dental hygiene student acquires basic clinic competencies in patient assessments, radiographic techniques, patient education techniques, and delivery of preventative and therapeutic services. Additional topics include evaluation of the effectiveness of therapy and attainment of patients' goals.

Prerequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-115, DENT-120

Corequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-151

DENT-151 Dental Hygiene Theory I

3 Credits

Lecture: 3 hours per week

Offering: Fall Only, Odd Years

This course builds foundations for the dental hygiene pre-clinic/labs through focus on the elements of the complete process of care. Topics include risk assessments; patients with medical, physical and psychological conditions; and emphasizing treatment modifications for medically and physically compromised patients. A firm foundation in infection control procedures, client assessment, fluoride therapies, and disease prevention is highlighted. Students examine management of medical emergencies, OSHA regulations, the blood-borne pathogen standard, the hazard communication standard, and CDC guidelines. Instrumentation principles, sharpening, ergonomic standards, the preparation for the delivery of educational and therapeutic patient services, preventive counseling, and ultrasonic instrumentation also are addressed.

Prerequisites: DENT-100, DENT-110, DENT-115, DENT-120

Corequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150

DENT-200 Dental Hygiene Clinic II**4 Credits****Lecture:** 12 hours per week**Offering:** Spring Only, Even Years

This course continues to provide an application of the dental hygiene process of care with emphasis on comprehensive care planning, case presentation, clinical decision making, advanced instrumentation, and improved time utilization.

Prerequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151**Corequisites:** DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**DENT-201 Dental Hygiene Theory II****1 Credit****Lecture:** 1 hour per week**Offering:** Spring Only, Even Years

This course builds foundations for the dental hygiene pre-clinic/labs through focus on the elements of the complete process of care. Topics include risk assessments; patients with medical, physical and psychological conditions; and emphasizing treatment modifications for medically and physically compromised patients. A firm foundation in infection control procedures, client assessment, fluoride therapies, and disease prevention is highlighted. Students examine management of medical emergencies, OSHA regulations, the blood-borne pathogen standard, the hazard communication standard, and CDC guidelines. Instrumentation principles, sharpening, ergonomic standards, the preparation for the delivery of educational and therapeutic patient services, preventative counseling, and ultrasonic instrumentation are also addressed.

Prerequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151**Corequisites:** DENT-200, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**DENT-215 Oral Pathology/Immunology****2 Credits****Lecture:** 2 hours per week**Offering:** Spring Only, Even Years

This course presents processes of inflammation, wound healing, repair, regeneration, and immunological responses. Topics include oral manifestations of systemic diseases and developmental anomalies of the oral cavity. In addition, commonly encountered diseases and disorders of the head and neck will be covered. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing the differences between pathological and normal tissues, and the study of all aspects of the immune system.

Prerequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151**Corequisites:** DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-230, DENT-235**DENT-230 Periodontology II****2 Credits****Lecture:** 2 hours per week**Offering:** Spring Only, Even Years

This course provides continued study of the recognition and treatment of periodontal diseases with an emphasis on surgical components and advanced periodontal treatments related to dental hygiene practice.

Prerequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151**Corequisites:** DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-235**DENT-235 Pain Management****3 Credits****Lecture:** 2 hours per week, **Lab:** 3 hours per week**Offering:** Spring Only, Even Years

This course covers current science, theories, and implementation of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation. A review of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and emergency procedures associated with local anesthesia and nitrous oxide conscious sedation will be addressed. Students will learn foundational skill development in the administration of infiltration and block anesthesia in dental hygiene procedures and will gain laboratory and clinical experience in administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide.

Prerequisites: DENT-125, DENT-130, DENT-150, DENT-151**Corequisites:** DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230**DENT-240 Community Dental Health****3 Credits****Lecture:** 3 hours per week**Offering:** Fall Only, Even Years

This course introduces the history and principles of community dental health and healthcare delivery systems. Topics include the prevention of oral disease, development of public policy and implementation of community efforts to enlighten the public. Issues surrounding access to care, managed care, private practice, independent practice, as well as trends in dental insurance reimbursement are presented. In addition, students will gain insight into research design, statistical methods and evaluation by participating in a research project. Selected current topics in international healthcare are presented.

Prerequisites: DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**Corequisites:** DENT-245, DENT-250, DENT-260, DENT-270**DENT-245 Advanced Instrumentation****1 Credit****Lab:** 3 hours per week**Offering:** Fall Only, Even Years

This course is a continuation of learning experiences in advanced periodontal instrumentation and root instrumentation. The student will study the advanced techniques and technology used to treat moderate to advanced periodontal disease.

Prerequisites: DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**Corequisites:** DENT-240, DENT-250, DENT-260, DENT-270**DENT-250 Dental Hygiene Clinic III****4 Credits****Lab:** 12 hours per week**Offering:** Fall Only, Even Years

This course provides application of the dental hygiene process of care with emphasis on diverse populations. Students prepare for clinical practice using self-assessment, evaluation, time management awareness, and critical thinking skills.

Prerequisites: DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**Corequisites:** DENT-240, DENT-245, DENT-260, DENT-270

DENT-260 Dental Materials**3 Credits****Lecture:** 1 hour per week, **Lab:** 6 hours per week**Offering:** Fall Only, Even Years

This is the integrated lecture/laboratory course that introduces students to the dental laboratory environment. Students will learn to assist the dentist in restorative, fixed and removable prostheses. Included will be an introduction to restorative techniques with emphasis on posterior tooth anatomy, placement of amalgam restorations, rubber dam isolation, and matrix and wedge placement. Also included will be the etiology of the decay process, cavity classification, cavity preparation, properties of amalgam, and maintenance of proper occlusal relationships with restorative treatment.

Prerequisites: DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**Corequisites:** DENT-240, DENT-245, DENT-250, DENT-270**DENT-270 Dental Hygiene Review/Ethics and Law****2 Credits****Lecture:** 2 hours per week**Offering:** Fall Only, Even Years

This course will begin with a review of healthcare principles used in dental hygiene to help identify, clarify, and support choices when faced with an ethical problem or dilemma. This course will also provide students with marketable job search techniques and skills. Students will review the dental hygiene content and take a simulation of the written Dental Hygiene National Board Examination.

Prerequisites: DENT-200, DENT-201, DENT-215, DENT-230, DENT-235**Corequisites:** DENT-240, DENT-245, DENT-250, DENT-260