

Degree:
A.S. – Dental Hygiene

Division of Science and Allied Health
James Collins, Dean
South Gym 220
916-558-2271

Dental Hygiene

Associate in Science Degree

Program Information

The Dental Hygiene Program consists of prerequisite courses in addition to dental hygiene courses. Students are required to complete additional general education and graduation requirements to earn an AS degree in Dental Hygiene. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education and can be contacted at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Program graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, which is administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, the California RDH Examination, and other state and regional licensing examinations.

In addition to normal student expenses (tuition, books, etc.), the Dental Hygiene Program requires an expenditure of over \$10,000 during the two-year program for uniforms, instruments, and special supplies. More than \$8,000 will be needed at the beginning of the first semester. If this creates a financial burden, students should consult the Financial Aid Office for possible assistance one semester before entering the program.

Recommended Preparation

High school and college preparatory courses including algebra, biology, chemistry, and physiology are recommended.

Graduation Requirements

Additional courses are necessary to meet Graduation Requirements. These may include American Institutions, Ethnic/Multicultural Studies, Humanities, Living Skills, and Competency Requirements. Students must consult with a counselor to determine their individual educational plan.

A grade of "C" or better in all Dental Hygiene courses is required for progression in the Dental Hygiene program and for recommendation to apply for the Dental Hygiene licensing examination.

The Associate in Science Degree in Dental Hygiene must be obtained for graduation from the program.

Enrollment Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment in the Dental Hygiene program is based on satisfactory completion of prerequisite courses with grades of "C" or better and submission of an application and official transcripts to the Dental Health Office. Enrollment eligibility courses include:
- BIOL 430 and 431, Anatomy and Physiology; BIOL 440, General Microbiology; CHEM 305 & CHEM 306 or CHEM 309, Chemistry with a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0.
- NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 480, Nutrition; PSYC 300 or PSYC 480, General Principles; SOC 300 or SOC 480, Introductory Sociology; COMM 301, Introduction to Public Speaking; ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, College Composition, and DHYG 100, Introduction to Dental Hygiene, with a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Completion of ENGRD 110, with a grade of "C" or better, or eligibility for ENGRD 310, as determined by the Sacramento City College reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA/AS degree or higher.
- Completion of MATH 120, with a grade of "C" or better, or MATH competency.
- Enrollment eligibility courses taken for Credit/No Credit (C/NC) will be calculated into GPAs as a "C" grade.

Enrollment Process

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Applications for enrollment are submitted online. Two (2) official transcripts supporting completion of prerequisite courses must be submitted to the Dental Health Department by the posted due date. Enrollment applications and deadlines are available from the Dental Health Department Office (Rodda South, Dental Clinic or 916-558-2357) or the SCC website at <http://www.scc.losrios.edu/dental/dental-hygiene/>
- Completion of the enrollment eligibility requirements places the applicant in the random selection pool. Eligible students who are not selected for program enrollment will be considered alternates.
- A background check and drug screening will be required of all students upon enrollment.
- The program reserves the right to make changes in the enrollment criteria, academic requirements, grading standards, and other processes without notice at any time.

Career Opportunities

This program prepares the student for employment as a dental hygienist. The registered dental hygienist is a licensed, professional, oral health educator, and clinician who works under the direction and supervision of a licensed dentist to provide preventive and therapeutic services for the control of oral diseases. Dental hygienists aid individuals and groups in attaining and maintaining optimum oral and general health through provision of services such as assessment of medical and dental conditions, oral hygiene education, oral prophylaxis – the removal of plaque, calculus, and stains from the teeth – and application of preventive agents such as fluoride and sealants. The dental hygienist may be employed in dental offices, schools, health care facilities, public health agencies, industry, and educational institutions.

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- use evidence based care to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene treatment for a diverse population based on their total needs.
- incorporate and apply professional, ethical, legal and regulatory concepts to oral health care services, community projects, and professional activities.
- integrate and apply health literacy and culturally competent communication skills to oral health care services, academic endeavors, community projects, and professional activities.
- assess, plan, implement, and evaluate community-based oral health projects.
- successfully complete written and clinical examinations for dental hygiene licensure and certification.
- apply critical thinking and self assessment skills to enhance learning, research, patient care, professional growth, and continued competency.

Required Program	Units
Enrollment Eligibility Courses:	
BIOL 430 Anatomy and Physiology.....	5
BIOL 431 Anatomy and Physiology.....	5
BIOL 440 General Microbiology.....	4
DHYG 100 Introduction to Dental Hygiene.....	0.5
CHEM 305 Introduction to Chemistry (5).....	5 – 10
and CHEM 306 Introduction to Chemistry (5)]	
or CHEM 309 Integrated General, Organic, and Biological	
Chemistry (5)	
COMM 301 Introduction to Public Speaking.....	3
ENGWR 300 College Composition (3).....	3 – 4
or ENGWR 488 Honors College Composition and Research (4)	
MATH 120 Intermediate Algebra.....	5
NUTRI 300 Nutrition (3).....	3
or NUTRI 480 Nutrition Honors (3)	
PSYC 300 General Principles (3).....	3
or PSYC 480 Honors General Principles (3)	
SOC 300 Introductory Sociology (3).....	3
or SOC 480 Introductory Sociology – Honors (3)	
First Semester (Fall):	
DHYG 101 Introduction to Clinical Dental Hygiene.....	4
DHYG 103 Oral Histology and Embryology.....	1
DHYG 104 Patient Education and Nutrition.....	2
DHYG 107 Dental Morphology.....	1.5
DHYG 109 Infection Control and Hazardous Materials.....	0.5
Second Semester (Spring):	
DHYG 111 Clinical Dental Hygiene I.....	4
DHYG 112 Periodontics I.....	2
DHYG 113 Head and Neck Anatomy.....	2
DHYG 117 Dental Radiology.....	3
Summer Session:	
DHYG 121 Clinical Dental Hygiene II.....	2
DHYG 127 Dental Materials.....	2
DHYG 129 Dental Anesthesia (2).....	2
Third Semester (Fall):	
DHYG 131 Clinical Dental Hygiene III.....	4
DHYG 132 Periodontics II.....	1
DHYG 134 Community Dental Health.....	2
DHYG 135 Clinic Seminar.....	1.5
DHYG 138 Oral Pathology.....	2
DHYG 139 Pharmacology.....	2
Fourth Semester (Spring):	
DHYG 141 Clinical Dental Hygiene IV.....	4
DHYG 145 Clinic Seminar II.....	1
DHYG 149 Ethics, Jurisprudence and Dental Hygiene Practice.....	2
Total Units Required	85-91

Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree

The Associate in Science Degree in Dental Hygiene must be obtained for graduation from the program.

Dental Hygiene (DHYG)

DHYG 100 Introduction to Dental Hygiene .5 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to the practice of Dental Hygiene. Topics include vital signs, dental terminology, infection control, study strategies, and the expectations and concerns of the dental hygiene professional.

DHYG 101 Introduction to Clinical Dental Hygiene 4 Units

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of “C” or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 480, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 480, SOC 300 or SOC 480, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of “C” or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 111 hours LAB

This course provides an introduction to dental hygiene concepts and procedures. Emphasis is placed on the assessment phase of patient care as well as on the theory and performance of basic dental hygiene instrumentation procedures.

DHYG 103 Oral Histology and Embryology 1 Unit

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of “C” or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 400, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 400, SOC 300 or SOC 400, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of “C” or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 18 hours LEC

Oral Histology and Embryology is the study of microscopic tissues and structures of the teeth, periodontium, and oral cavity as related to the clinical practice of dental hygiene.

DHYG 104 Patient Education and Nutrition 2 Units

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of “C” or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 400, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 400, SOC 300 or SOC 400, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of “C” or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course covers the principles and practices of preventing and controlling dental disease with emphasis on nutrition, plaque control, motivation, and chairside patient education.

DHYG 107 Dental Morphology 1.5 Units

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of "C" or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 400, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 400, SOC 300 or SOC 400, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of "C" or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 18 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB

Dental Morphology is the study of the formation, function, and structure of the teeth, and their supporting structures.

DHYG 109 Infection Control and Hazardous Materials .5 Units

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of "C" or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRI 300 or NUTRI 400, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 400, SOC 300 or SOC 400, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of "C" or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course emphasizes the legal and ethical aspects of infectious disease transmission and their prevention. The necessary information to meet OSHA and CDC requirements for education on infection control and hazardous material management is included.

DHYG 111 Clinical Dental Hygiene I 4 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 103 and 107 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 117 hours LAB

This course provides clinical practice of oral prophylaxis through practical applications of procedures learned in DHYG 101. In clinic, students demonstrate various procedures on each other before applying them to patients: children over 5 years old and young adults. Techniques in patient education will be practiced. The lectures include rationale for more difficult traditional dental hygiene skills as students advance from preclinic to DHYG 111 Clinic I. Students are required to complete the minimum number of patients and services required.

DHYG 112 Periodontics I 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 101, 103, 104, 107, and 109 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This is a course in periodontics that includes the identification of the normal periodontium and recognition of deviations from normal. It includes the etiology and principles of periodontal disease, examination procedures, treatment, and preventive measures.

DHYG 113 Head and Neck Anatomy 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 101, 103, 104, 107, and 109 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This is a course in oral anatomy designed for the study of the head and neck structures or group of structures in relation to their function for the clinical practice of dental hygiene, especially the areas pertaining to local anesthesia.

DHYG 117 Dental Radiology 3 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 101, 103, 104, 107, and 109 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB

This course covers the principles of dental radiology. Topics include laboratory experience and clinical application of procedures involved in exposing, processing, interpreting, and evaluating dental radiographs.

DHYG 121 Clinical Dental Hygiene II 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 111, 112, 113, and 117 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 110 hours LAB

This course provides continued clinical experience in performing oral prophylaxis with wider variety of clinical cases, as well as complete assignments in clinical radiography. Students must complete minimal number of patient treatments and services listed in the syllabus.

DHYG 127 Dental Materials 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 111, 112, 113, and 117 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 27 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB

This course is a survey of dental materials and techniques and their use. It includes training in radiographic decision making and placement of Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR). Instruction of ITR consists of four hours of didactic and four hours of laboratory. Clinical ITR instruction is embedded in DHYG 131 and DHYG 141.

DHYG 129 Dental Anesthesia 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 113 and 121 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the dental hygiene program and completion of BIOL 430, 431, and 440; CHEM 305 and 306 with grades of "C" or better, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; completion of DHYG 100, NUTRU 300 or NUTRI 400, ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 488, COMM 301, PSYC 300 or PSYC 400, SOC 300 or SOC 400, and MATH 120 or Mathematics Competency with grades of "C" or better and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better; completion of ENGRD 110 or eligibility for ENGRD 310 as determined by the reading assessment process for all applicants who do not have an AA degree or higher.

Hours: 27 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB

Dental Anesthesia covers the science behind local anesthesia with a lab component including oral injections. Anatomical structures of the head and neck and oro-facial variations from normal in a clinical setting are included in the course content. The rationale for this course is to present didactic instruction related to the indications and contraindications of the administration and reversal of local anesthetic agents. Course content will also include head and neck anatomy, physical and psychological evaluation procedures, review of the body systems, theory and psychological aspects of pain and anxiety control, selection of pain control modalities, pharmacological considerations such as action of anesthetics and vasoconstrictors, recovery and post procedure, complications and management of local anesthetic emergencies, armamentarium, techniques for maxillary and mandibular local infiltrations, field blocks and nerve blocks, proper infection control, documentation that meets the standard of care, and medical and legal considerations. Student course evaluation mechanisms are included in didactic instruction prior to preclinical injections. An emphasis will be placed on the administration of local anesthesia. Preclinical injection skills (2 for each injection) will be obtained in preparation for clinical injection requirements in DHYG 131 and DHYG 141. Injections include IO (ASA nerve block), ASA (field block), MSA, PSA, GP, NP (P-ASA), AMSA, IANB (includes lingual), Buccal, Mental/Incisive, Mandibular infiltration (22-27), and intraseptal.

DHYG 131 Clinical Dental Hygiene III 4 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 252 hours LAB

This course provides continued clinical experience in the provision of comprehensive dental hygiene services to a wide variety of patients with different medical and dental needs. The course focuses on progressive development of skills in areas of dental hygiene assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, preventive and therapeutic services, and evaluation and time management. Students must complete the required number of patients for the semester.

DHYG 132 Periodontics II 1 Unit

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 54 hours LAB

This course develops clinical skills applicable in the treatment of patients with advanced periodontal disease. The course includes demonstrations and performance of tasks on appropriate laboratory materials. It also includes working with a live patient and with a periodontist in the clinical setting using advanced skills, including administration of local anesthesia and soft tissue curettage. Students will synthesize the results of assessments and design and implement treatment for a periodontally involved patient. Soft Tissue Curettage (STC) includes three hours of didactic and preclinical instruction.

DHYG 134 Community Dental Health 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the Dental Hygiene program.
Hours: 18 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB
 Community Dental Health is the study of the philosophy and background of community dental health with emphasis on program planning, implementation, and evaluation. This course includes practical experience implementing programs in various community settings. Extra time outside the normal school schedule may be required for completion of community projects.

DHYG 135 Clinic Seminar 1.5 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 27 hours LEC

This course integrates advanced concepts and skills into the clinical experiences of the third semester dental hygiene student. Emphasis is placed on development and implementation of comprehensive patient treatment plans, identification of resources to support evidence-based patient care, and critical thinking skills. This course introduces topics related to aging and its implication for health care providers. Emphasis is on socioeconomic and psychological aspects of aging, as well as normal age-related physiological changes. An overview of community resources that serve the older populations' health and dental needs is also included. Additionally, the preparation for table clinic presentations in Clinic Seminar II is introduced.

DHYG 138 Oral Pathology 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course is the introduction to general pathology with a special emphasis on oral pathology. This course also addresses recognition of the normal and abnormal in the oral cavity.

DHYG 139 Pharmacology 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 121 and 127 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 36 hours LEC

Pharmacology is the classification and study of drugs according to origin, physical and chemical properties. This course covers the therapeutic effect and values, particularly of drugs utilized in dentistry.

DHYG 141 Clinical Dental Hygiene IV 4 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 131, 132, 134, 135, 138, and 139 with grades of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.
Hours: 252 hours LAB

This course provides continuing clinical experience in performing oral prophylaxis, oral radiographic surveys, charting cases, and patient education. The clinical experience is related to all aspects of dentistry. Students must complete the minimum number of patients and services listed in the syllabus.

DHYG 145 Clinic Seminar II 1 Unit

Prerequisite: DHYG 131, 132, 134, 135, 138, and 139 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 54 hours LAB

This course provides instruction in nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and caries detection. Students develop critical thinking skills through the discussion of problems and special interest cases encountered in clinical experience. There will be presentations from outside speakers. Additionally, this course is designed to share and discuss unique and common situations that have occurred in the clinic, develop the skills to diagnosis dental caries, and provide a format for research presentations of dental table clinics. This course provides instruction in the administration of nitrous oxide. This course also presents didactic instruction related to the indications and contraindications of the administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia agents. Course content also includes head and neck anatomy, physical and psychological evaluation procedures, review of the body systems, theory and psychological aspects of pain and anxiety control, selection of pain control modalities, pharmacological considerations such as the action of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, recovery and post procedure, complications and management of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia emergencies, armamentarium, techniques for nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, proper infection control, documentation that meets the standard of care, and medical and legal considerations. Student course evaluation mechanisms are included in didactic instruction prior to preclinical administration of nitrous oxide. Two (2) Preclinical nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia skills will be obtained in preparation for three (3) clinical competency administrations in DHYG 141. Each clinical competency shall include the performance of a dental hygiene procedure while administering at least (20) minutes of nitrous-oxygen analgesia.

DHYG 149 Ethics, Jurisprudence and Dental Hygiene Practice 2 Units

Prerequisite: DHYG 131, 132, 134, 135, 138, and 139 with grades of "C" or better

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program.

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course is the study of the fundamental factors necessary to be employed and practice within the ethical and legal framework of the California State Dental Practice Act and the code of ethics of the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

DHYG 295 Independent Studies in Dental Hygiene 1-3 Units

Prerequisite: See enrollment limitations

Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment in the dental hygiene program or a license dental professional obtaining continuing education.

Hours: 162 hours LAB

This course is designed to provide a mechanism for current dental hygiene students or licensed professionals to complete independent studies in dental hygiene education. The course is designed to allow for three uses; supplemental dental hygiene clinic time for currently enrolled dental hygiene students, remediation dental hygiene clinic time for currently enrolled dental hygiene students, or continuing education for licensed dental professionals. Continuing education from dental professionals is a mandated training requirement as a condition of continued employment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, 55041 allowed for repeatability with no limitations).

DHYG 299 Experimental Offering in Dental Hygiene .5-4 Units

Prerequisite: None

Hours: 90 hours LEC

See Experimental Offerings