

DENTAL HYGIENE, ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

The Dental Hygiene Program prepares students for the practice of dental hygiene. A Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) is a licensed professional who is part of the dental care team, performing such services as oral examination, oral prophylaxis (scaling, root planning, soft tissue curettage and polishing the teeth), exposing dental x-rays, administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation for pain control, applying preventive substances such as topical fluorides and dental sealants, along with educating patients in preventive oral health care, nutrition, and the link between diet, oral health, and overall general health.

The Dental Hygiene, Associate in Science Degree Program offers academic and clinical skills curriculum within an on-campus clinic. The student is prepared for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (written), the state practical examination, and must take the California Law & Ethics exam to gain licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
Program Recommendation		
BIS R122	Microsoft Office	3
SPAN R210	Intermediate Spanish II	4
or SPAN R220	Spanish for Heritage Speakers I	
or SPAN R220H	Honors: Spanish for Heritage Speakers I	
or SPAN R230	Spanish for Heritage Speakers II	
or SPAN R230H	Honors: Spanish for Heritage Speakers II	
Program Prerequisite Courses		
DH R001	Pre-Dental Hygiene	1
ENGL R102	Critical Thinking through Composition and Literature	4
or ENGL R128	Composition and Critical Thinking through Non-Fiction	
or PHIL R111	Critical Thinking and Analytic Writing	
ANAT R101	General Human Anatomy	4
CHEM R110	Elementary Chemistry	5
or CHEM R120	General Chemistry I	
CHEM R112	Elementary Organic and Biological Chemistry	5
COMM R101	Introduction to Oral Communication	3
ENGL R101	College Composition	4
or ENGL R101H	Honors: College Composition	
MATH R105	Introductory Statistics	4
or MATH R105H	Honors: Introductory Statistics	
or MATH R106	Business Calculus	
or MATH R115	College Algebra	
or MATH R117	Precalculus and Trigonometry	
or MATH R120	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	
or PSY R103	Beginning Statistics for Behavioral Science	
or SOC R125	Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences	
MICR R100	Principles of Microbiology	3
MICR R100L	Principles of Microbiology Laboratory	2
PHSO R101	Human Physiology	5

PSY R101	General Psychology	3
or PSY R101H	Honors: General Psychology	
SOC R101	Introduction to Sociology	3
or SOC R101H	Honors: Introduction to Sociology	
Select one of the following to satisfy the Ethnic Studies requirement:		3
ANTH R107	The Anthropology of Native Americans	3
or ETHS R107	The Anthropology of Native Americans	
ETHS R119	Introduction to Border Studies	3
or ANTH R119	Introduction to Border Studies	
or BRS R101	Introduction to Border Studies	
CHST R101	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies	3
ETHS R134	African-American Literature	3
or ENGL R134	African-American Literature	

The courses listed above are not necessarily entry-level. Oxnard College offers courses to prepare students to succeed in these prerequisites. The Dental Hygiene Program requires full-time enrollment.

Dental Hygiene Program Admission

Upon completion of the prerequisites, students must apply for admission to the Dental Hygiene program. A minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0 is required. All colleges ever attended must be reported. All science prerequisites must have been completed no more than 5 years prior to application to the Dental Hygiene program and must have been completed with a 3.0 GPA. Contact the program coordinator at 805-678-5823 for details on the selection process.

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
Required Dental Hygiene Courses		
DH R010	Oral Biology for Dental Hygiene	3
DH R011	Oral Radiology for Dental Hygiene	3
DH R012	Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Hygiene	2.5
DH R013	Dental Health Education Seminar for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R014	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3
DH R015	Introduction to PreClinic/Clinic for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R020	Local Anesthesia for Nitrous Oxide for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R021	General and Oral Pathology for Dental Hygiene	4
DH R022	Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R023	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice I	3
DH R024	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar I	3
DH R025	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene I	2
DH R030	Special Patients/Geriatrics for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R031	Nutrition in Dentistry for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R032	Dental Materials for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R033	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar II	2
DH R034	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice II	4
DH R035	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene II	2
DH R036	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene I	2

DH R040	Advanced Clinical Topics in Dental Hygiene	2
DH R041	Practice Management for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R042	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar III	2
DH R043	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice III	4
DH R044	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene II	1
DH R045	Ethics and Jurisprudence for Dental Hygiene	1
Total Required Major Units		55.5
Oxnard College General Education		29
Double-Counted Units		- 16
Free Electives Required		0
Total Required Units for A.S. Degree		68.5

To complete the Associate Degree, students must meet requirements in the major, general education, competency, units, scholarship, and residency. Refer to Earn an Associate Degree (<http://catalog.vcccd.edu/oxnard/graduation-requirements/earn-associate-degree/>) and the A.A. or A.S. Degree in Specific Majors (<http://catalog.vcccd.edu/oxnard/graduation-requirements/associate-degrees-specific-majors/>) sections of this catalog.

Year 1

Fall Semester		Units/Hours
DH R010	Oral Biology for Dental Hygiene	3
DH R011	Oral Radiology for Dental Hygiene	3
DH R012	Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Hygiene	2.5
DH R013	Dental Health Education Seminar for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R014	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3
DH R015	Introduction to PreClinic/Clinic for Dental Hygiene	2
Units/Hours		14.5

Spring Semester

DH R020	Local Anesthesia for Nitrous Oxide for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R021	General and Oral Pathology for Dental Hygiene	4
DH R022	Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R023	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice I	3
DH R024	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar I	3
DH R025	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene I	2
Units/Hours		16

Year 2**Fall Semester**

DH R030	Special Patients/Geriatrics for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R031	Nutrition in Dentistry for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R032	Dental Materials for Dental Hygiene	2
DH R033	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar II	2
DH R034	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice II	4
DH R035	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene II	2
DH R036	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene I	2
Units/Hours		14

Spring Semester

DH R040	Advanced Clinical Topics in Dental Hygiene	2
DH R041	Practice Management for Dental Hygiene	1
DH R042	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar III	2
DH R043	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice III	4
DH R044	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene II	1
DH R045	Ethics and Jurisprudence for Dental Hygiene	1
Units/Hours		11
Total Units/Hours		55.5

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in performing the common local anesthetic techniques used in the practice of dental hygiene.
- Analyze oral structures/tissues and evaluate these oral structures/tissues for pathology and treat any pathology appropriately.
- Construct dental hygiene treatment plans and employ these plans to provide comprehensive dental hygiene treatment to patients.
- Manage their fundamental roles in the dental practice
- Operate dental radiographic equipment properly and safely
- Evaluate patients' medical/dental histories and make appropriate adjustments to their dental hygiene treatment.