

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 and processing 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 instructing patients in oral disease control and nutrition.

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		
CAOT R803	Computer Literacy	0
Program Prerequisite Courses		
DH R001	Pre-Dental Hygiene	1
ANAT R101	General Human Anatomy	4
BIOL R101	General Biology (or equivalent)	3
or BIOL R101H	Honors: General Biology	
BIOL R101L	General Biology Laboratory (or equivalent)	1
CHEM R110	Elementary Chemistry	5
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 R005	Beginning and Intermediate Algebra for Statistics and Liberal Arts	4-6
or MATH R015	Beginning and Intermediate Algebra	
or MATH R105	Introductory Statistics	
or MATH R105H	Honors: Introductory Statistics	
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:		3
ANTH R102	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
or ANTH R102H	Honors: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
ANTH/ETHS R114	African American Culture and Experience	3
CHST R101	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies	3
ECE R107	Teaching in a Diverse Society	3
SJS/ETHS R110	Introduction to Social Justice Studies	3

SOC R103	Race and Ethnic Relations	3
SOC/CHST R108	Sociology of the Chicano Community	3

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. See a counselor for more information.

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. *The Dental Hygiene program requires full-time enrollment.*

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
Required Dental Hygiene Courses		
DH R010	Oral Biology for Dental Hygiene	
DH R011	Oral Radiology for Dental Hygiene	
DH R012	Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Hygiene	
DH R013	Dental Health Education Seminar for Dental Hygiene	
DH R014	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	
DH R015	Introduction to PreClinic/Clinic for Dental Hygiene	
DH R020	Local Anesthesia for Nitrous Oxide for Dental Hygiene	
DH R021	General and Oral Pathology for Dental Hygiene	
DH R022	Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	
DH R023	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice I	
DH R024	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar I	
DH R025	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene I	
DH R030	Special Patients/Geriatrics for Dental Hygiene	
DH R031	Nutrition in Dentistry for Dental Hygiene	
DH R032	Dental Materials for Dental Hygiene	
DH R033	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar II	
DH R034	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice II	
DH R035	Periodontics for Dental Hygiene II	
DH R036	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene I	
DH R040	Advanced Clinical Topics in Dental Hygiene	
DH R041	Practice Management for Dental Hygiene	
DH R042	Dental Hygiene Clinic Seminar III	
DH R043	Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice III	
DH R044	Community Oral Health for Dental Hygiene II	
DH R045	Ethics and Jurisprudence for Dental Hygiene	
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

- Evaluate patients' medical/dental histories and make appropriate adjustments to their dental hygiene treatment.

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