

# DENTAL HYGIENE, A.A.S.

## Entry Time

Fall

## Award

Associate of Applied Science degree  
2 years (5 terms, including summer)

Dental hygienists help prevent, detect and treat diseases of the mouth, playing a key role in the pursuit of optimal patient health via education and treatment planning. Hygienists work independently with patients.

Dental hygienists remove calculus deposits and stains from teeth, polish teeth, apply sealants and fluoride, take X-rays, record medical and dental histories, and educate patients on how proper brushing, flossing and eating habits can help maintain a healthy mouth.

## Accreditation

The Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of compliance without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Dental Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the regional board examinations of their choice. Successful completion of both board examinations is required to receive a license to practice dental hygiene.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation  
211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678  
312-440-4653

## Career Opportunities

- dental offices/clinics/hospitals
- government agencies
- public health
- insurance claims processing
- specialty dental practices
- sales
- teaching

## Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
BIO-168	Human Anatomy and Physiology I <sup>1</sup>	4
CHM-110	Introduction to Chemistry <sup>1</sup>	3
CHM-111	Introduction to Chemistry Lab <sup>1</sup>	1
MAT-772	Applied Math <sup>1</sup>	3
Select one of the following:		1
BCA-189	Microcomputer Literacy <sup>1</sup>	

CSC-116	Information Computing <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Term 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
DEN-120	Dental Anatomy <sup>2</sup>	3
HSC-107	Professionals in Health <sup>2</sup>	2
DEN-100	Fundamentals of Dentistry	3.5
DHY-173	Dental Hygiene I	4
DEN-200	Preventive Dentistry	2
DEN-130	Head and Neck Anatomy <sup>2</sup>	1.5
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
<b>Spring</b>		
BIO-173	Human Anatomy and Physiology II <sup>2</sup>	4
CHM-132	Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry <sup>2</sup>	4
DEN-300	Dental Radiography	3
DHY-140	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHY-186	Dental Hygiene II	4
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Term 3</b>		
<b>Summer</b>		
DEN-220	Dental Nutrition <sup>2</sup>	1
DHY-220	Dental Materials	1
DHY-274	Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist	1.5
DHY-285	Dental Hygiene III	3
Select one of the following:		3
SPC-101	Fundamentals of Oral Communication <sup>2</sup>	
COM-222	Communication for Health Care Professionals <sup>2</sup>	
SPC-112	Public Speaking <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>9.5</b>
<b>Term 4</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
DHY-250	Community Dental Health	1.5
DHY-211	Periodontology	2
DHY-134	Therapeutics and Pain Control	2
DHY-296	Dental Hygiene IV	5
BIO-186	Microbiology <sup>2</sup>	4
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>14.5</b>

Term 5		
Spring		
DHY-306	Dental Hygiene V	5
ENG-105	Composition I <sup>2</sup>	3
SOC-110	Introduction to Sociology <sup>2</sup>	3
PSY-111	Introduction to Psychology <sup>2</sup>	3
Humanities or History/Culture Course ( <a href="https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/">https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/</a> ) <sup>2</sup>		3
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Program Totals:</b>		<b>86</b>

<sup>1</sup> Completion of courses with a minimum grade of C- required before admission to the program.

<sup>2</sup> Courses may be taken before beginning the clinical portion of the program.

### Optional Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DHY-910	Dental Hygiene Clinical Enrichment	1
HSC-103	Studies in Health Sciences	1-3

*Note: Minimum C is required in all technical Dental Hygiene courses. Dental Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the regional board examinations of their choice. Successful completion of both board examinations is required to receive a license to practice dental hygiene.*