Dental Hygiene

College of Allied Health & Nursing
Department of Dental Hygiene
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Chair: Lynnette Engeswick
Terri Brown, Brigette Cooper, Lynnette Engeswick, Lisa Fleck, Nancy Geistfeld
Thomas, Angela Monson

The dental hygiene curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for the student to develop a sound clinical and theoretical foundation for the practice of dental hygiene. The graduate is prepared to fulfill the dental hygiene roles as clinician, change agent, educator, researcher and consumer advocate as put forth by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.

The program is accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation, and meets by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene. A Bachelor of Science degree is earned upon completion of the program.

Admission to Program. Application for admission to the Dental Hygiene program is a separate process in addition to being admitted to the University. It is highly recommended to meet with a Dental Hygiene advisor to formulate a plan of study as soon as possible. Requirements for application for admission to the dental hygiene program include:
1. Completion of at least 36 semester credits.
2. A minimum career grade-point average of 2.5.
3. Successful completion of prerequisites of CMST 100 or CMST 102, ENG 101, PSYC 101, SOC 150 or SOC 101, BIOL 220, MATH 112 and two of these three courses: BIOL 270, BIOL 230, or CHEM 111.

A maximum of two science courses can be repeated (each once) in order for the application to be accepted. The application form may be obtained from the Dental Hygiene Department website or secretary. The number of students admitted to the Dental Hygiene major is limited to 24 students admitted each fall semester. Applicants are accepted primarily based on academic achievement in prerequisite courses with an emphasis placed on the science prerequisites.

Policies/Information

P/N Grading Policy. All courses required for Dental Hygiene must be taken for a letter grade and a letter grade of "C" or higher must be achieved. A grade of "D" or "F" in a Dental Hygiene course will result in academic suspension from the program. Completion of didactic course numbers DHYG 326 forward requires successful completion of previous Dental Hygiene courses obtaining a "C" or better in order to continue in the Dental Hygiene program.

Costs. A student in the dental hygiene program should be prepared to spend about $150. Approximately $500 is required. The remainder is due in July of the same year.

Dental hygienists are at risk for exposure to blood borne pathogens (BBP). Students who have graduated with an A.S. or A.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene from an accredited program are eligible to apply to the B.S. Degree Completion option. Courses within this program are 100% online, offered on a 2-year rotating schedule.

DENTAL HYGIENE BS DEGREE COMPLETION OPTION

Students who have graduated with an A.S. or A.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene from an accredited program are eligible to apply to the B.S. Degree Completion option. Courses within this program are 100% online, offered on a 2-year rotating schedule.
Dental Hygiene

Requirements for admission to the Dental Hygiene BS Degree Completion option are:
1) Successful completion of a Program in Dental Hygiene accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.
2) License to practice dental hygiene (or eligible for licensure).
3) CPR level C certification
4) Completion of HBV series.
5) A minimum grade point average of 2.0

The Dental Hygiene BS degree completion option is considered a broad major and does not require a minor. Each student will develop an individual plan of study with the Degree Completion Coordinator to meet the general education and upper division requirements. Contact Angela Monson at angela.monson@mnstate.edu for more information.

Required for Major (32 credits)

DHYG 441 Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice (3)
DHYG 442 Current Issues in Dental Hygiene (3)
DHYG 443 Technology in Oral Health (3)
DHYG 444 Principles of Oral Health Promotion (3)
DHYG 445 Educational Methods in Dental Hygiene (3)
DHYG 451 Dental Hygiene Care Planning (3)
DHYG 452 Decision Making in Periodontology (3)
DHYG 453 Research Methods in Dental Hygiene (3)
DHYG 454 Oral Health Promotion Practice (3)
DHYG 455 Educational Practice in Dental Hygiene (3)
DHYG 456 Oral Medicine and Treatment Planning (2)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DHYG 100 (1) Perspectives in Dental Hygiene
This course will give the student an introduction to Dental Hygiene as a profession and career. Exploration of dental hygiene practice and an overview of the dental hygiene curriculum and conceptual framework will be covered.
Fall, Spring

DHYG 311 (3) Preclinical Orientation
This course includes an introduction to dental terminology and clinical aspects of dental hygiene treatment including care and use of equipment/instruments, infection control and preparation of patient records.
Pre: Admission into Dental Hygiene Program and Dental Terminology packet
Fall

DHYG 313 (3) Clinical Skills Development
This course will teach the operative techniques needed to perform oral prophylactic procedures and health education through laboratory/clinical practice.
Pre: Admission into Dental Hygiene Program
Fall, Variable

DHYG 319 (2) Head and Neck Anatomy and Histology
Head and Neck Anatomy is the study of the hard and soft tissues of the head and neck including bones, muscles, nerves, blood supply, glands and how they function. Oral Histology is the study of cells and cell layers which compose basic tissues, oral mucosa, gingival and dentogingival tissues, orofacial structures, enamel, dentin and pulp.
Pre: Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program
Fall

DHYG 321 (3) Radiography I
This course includes production of dental radiographs, physics of x-radiation, biologic effects, interpretation, processing, mounting, and laboratory practice on mannequins and patients. Special attention is given to infection control, safety precautions, and patient selection.
Pre: Admission into Dental Hygiene Program
Fall

DHYG 322 (2) Biomaterials I
This course is the first of two courses that studies the fundamental elements, purposes and uses of dental materials in the modern dental office. In addition it will give the dental hygiene student a fundamental understanding and skill level of basic dental assisting techniques utilized in the dental office.
Pre: Admission into Dental Hygiene Program
Fall

DHYG 325 (2) Oral Anatomy
This course includes the study of the permanent, mixed and primary dentitions including each individual tooth’s morphology, function and occlusion.
Pre: Admission into Dental Hygiene Program
Fall

DHYG 326 (2) Biomaterials II
This course is the second of two courses that studies the fundamental elements, purposes and uses of the materials used in the modern dental office. The student will develop laboratory or clinical competency in functions using dental materials that are legal duties for Minnesota dental hygienists.
Spring

DHYG 327 (2) Periodontology I
This course will include a study of supporting tooth structures, identification, classification, etiology, progression and treatment of periodontal diseases.
Spring

DHYG 328 (2) Radiography Interpretation
This course will study the normal anatomical features from intraoral and extraoral radiographs. Students will then use this knowledge to interpret what is seen on radiographs to discern normal from abnormal. Interpretation of dental caries, periodontal disease and pathology are among the topics this course will cover.
Spring

DHYG 329 (3) Oral Embryology and Pathology
Oral Embryology encompasses development of human body from conception through birth, with a focus on development of the face and hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity. Oral Pathology addresses the causes and mechanisms of disease with special emphasis on common oral lesions and neoplasms, stressing their etiology and clinical manifestations.
Spring

DHYG 331 (2) Clinical Dental Hygiene I
This course provides an opportunity for dental hygiene students to develop their roles as educators, clinicians, consumer advocates, change agents, researchers, and administrators in a clinical setting.
Spring, Variable

DHYG 332 (2) Clinical Seminar I
This course includes the study of treatment planning, oral health education, ultrasonic scalers, cardiology, sealants, and new products. Library use and writing a research paper are also included.
Spring

DHYG 333 (2) Clinical Dental Hygiene II
This course offers the student continued practice of dental hygiene treatment procedures in the Minnesota State Mankato Dental Clinic.
Summer, Variable

DHYG 334 (1) Dental Computer Software Management
This course is designed to equip dental hygiene students with the skills necessary to manage a dental computer software program. A focus on networking, dental resource codes and insurance protocol will also be covered.
Spring

DHYG 420 (1) Local Anesthesia
This course is designed to be a study of the fundamental elements, purposes, and uses of local anesthesia for the dental hygienist.
Fall
DHYG 421 (3) Clinical Dental Hygiene II
This course offers the student continued practice of dental hygiene treatment procedures in the Minnesota State Mankato Dental Clinic. It includes several mandatory off-campus experiences.  
Fall

DHYG 422 (1) Clinical Seminar II
This course focuses on clinical procedures, educational techniques and legal and ethical issues as they apply to the patient- dental hygiene provider relationship.  
Fall

DHYG 423 (3) Pharmacology
Pharmacology is the study of drugs used in dentistry or medicine for the treatment, prevention and diagnosis of disease.  
Fall

DHYG 424 (1) Nitrous Oxide Sedation
The course is designed to be a study of the fundamental elements, purposes and uses of nitrous oxide sedation in the practice of dental hygiene. This course meets the educational criteria established by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.  
Spring

DHYG 425 (3) Community Dental Health
This course introduces second year dental hygiene students to the disciplines and basic principles of community dental health, epidemiologic methods and biostatistical measurement analysis. Preventive oral health measures and program development is included to provide a background for the practical application of dental public health methods to the community.  
Fall

DHYG 426 (1) Dental Hygiene Jurisprudence and Ethics
This course focuses on legal and ethical issues as applied to the patient dental hygiene provider relationship.  
Fall

DHYG 427 (2) Periodontology II
Didactic and clinical study of etiology, diagnosis, preventive and therapeutic procedures involved with periodontal disease.  
Fall

DHYG 428 (1) Technology in Dentistry
This course is designed to prepare the dental hygiene student in the use of new technologies in the modern dental office. Students will learn to integrate these new technologies into the teledentistry model.  
Fall

DHYG 431 (3) Clinical Dental Hygiene III
This course offers the student continued practice of dental hygiene treatment procedures in the Minnesota State Mankato Dental Clinic. It includes several mandatory off-campus experiences.  
Fall, Variable

DHYG 432 (2) Clinical Seminar III
This course focuses on the development of a personal sense of responsibility for the well-being and development of one’s workplace from an employee perspective.  
Spring

DHYG 435 (2) Community Practicum
This course focuses on the role of dental hygiene practitioners in promoting optimal oral health at the individual level and in the community.  
Spring

DHYG 437 (2) Dental Mgmt. of the Medically Compromised Patient
The course is designed to provide the dental hygiene practitioner with a survey of common medical disorders that may be encountered in a dental practice. The medical problems are organized to provide a brief overview of the basic disease process, etiology, incidence, prevalence, behavior characteristics, medications and oral manifestations commonly presented by the dental patients. As a result of the accumulation of evidence based research, the dental hygiene practitioner will be provided with an understanding of the disease, recognize the severity of the common medical disorders and make a dental management decision providing the patient with the highest possible level of oral health.  
Fall

DHYG 438 (1) Advanced Community Practice I
The first of two clinical courses designed to utilize the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation process in a community based setting. This course will address efforts to reduce incidence and severity of oral diseases resulting in improved access to community oral health in complex cases.  
Fall

DHYG 439 (1) Advanced Community Practice II
This is the second of two clinical courses designed to utilize the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation process in a community based setting. This course will address efforts to reduce incidence and severity of oral diseases resulting in improved access to community oral health in complex cases.  
Spring

DHYG 440 (4) Restorative Functions
This course meets the requirements of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry for dental hygiene and assistants to legally perform new expanded duties including the placement, contouring and adjustment of amalgam, glass ionomer and composite restorations and the placement and adjustment of stainless steel crowns.  
Spring

DHYG 441 (3) Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice
Identify clinical skills and knowledge needed to improve effectiveness as a dental hygienist. Areas addressed: ultrasonic implementation using multiple types of devices, risk factor analysis, comprehensive treatment planning, Periscope (endoscope), carbide/diamond files, advanced instrumentation techniques, patient management, case presentation.  
Spring

DHYG 442 (3) Current Issues in Dental Hygiene
Topics included but not be limited to: advanced practice models to expand oral health services, including restorative procedures; counseling regarding smoking cessation; recent medical advances in the field of dentistry and legal and policy issues currently impacting dental hygiene.  
Spring

DHYG 443 (3) Technology in Oral Health
Assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of the impact of emerging dental technology. Topics include dental practice software management, digital radiography, intra-oral cameras, patient education software, lasers in dentistry, and internet information sources for both practitioners and patients.  
Spring

DHYG 444 (3) Principles of Oral Health Promotion
Leadership preparation in the delivery of oral health care in the public health model. Emphasis will be placed on defining oral health problems and solutions, community planning, implementation and evaluation based on the oral health objectives of Healthy People 2010.  
Fall

DHYG 445 (3) Educational Methods in Dental Hygiene
Examines educational methods needed for effective dental hygiene instruction. Topics addressed within this course will include learner and context analysis, performance objectives, assessment instruments, instructional strategies, formative and summative evaluations. Emphasis will be placed on competency based instruction.  
Fall

DHYG 451 (3) Dental Hygiene Care Planning
Evidence based dental management of patients with medical disorders encountered in dental practice. Provides an overview of basic disease processes, epidemiology, pathophysiology, and accepted medical therapies utilizing human needs model to formulate a dental hygiene care plan.  
Fall
DHYG 452 (3) Decision Making in Periodontology
Combines the sciences and knowledge in the discipline of dental hygiene that permits synthesis and application of periodontal treatment techniques. Surgical and aggressive management of medically compromised periodontal patients will be addressed in this course.
Fall

DHYG 453 (3) Research Methods in Dental Hygiene
Provides student awareness of the American Dental Hygienists' Research Agenda and prepares students on the methodology of research. Includes strengths and limitations of quantitative and qualitative research methods while developing methodological skills and proficiencies related to research.
Spring

DHYG 454 (3) Oral Health Promotion Practice
Demonstration of oral health delivery in community based clinics embracing oral health promotion efforts as a methodology. Increasing demand for care, dental services and prevention resulting in reduction of oral diseases and improved community oral health.
Pre: DHYG 444
Spring

DHYG 455 (3) Educational Practice in Dental Hygiene
Applies content from Principles of Educational Methods to support the role of dental hygiene educator in didactic and clinical instruction. Active participation in course design, delivery and evaluation in classroom, online or clinical format with emphasis on competency based instruction.
Pre: DHYG 445
Spring

DHYG 456 (2) Oral Medicine and Treatment Planning
This course is designed to facilitate critical thinking skills related to drugs used in dentistry and medicine with emphasis placed on the impact of the dental hygiene diagnosis.
Spring

DHYG 499 (1-6) Individual Study