

DENTAL HYGIENE, BACHELOR OF 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, Bachelor of 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), a regional practical examination, and must take the California Law & Ethics exam to gain licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

Due to the rigor of the Dental Hygiene program, admission is based on previous academic performance and other predictors of scholastic aptitude and ability to ensure that students have the potential for successfully completing the program. General education, social science and biomedical science courses included in the baccalaureate degree dental hygiene curricula parallels those offered in four-year colleges and universities. Attention is given to requirements for admission to graduate programs to establish a balance between professional and nonprofessional credit allocations.

The Dental Hygiene Program admits 20 students every Fall semester. Upon verification of program selection criteria, all qualified candidates will be included in a selection pool. A lottery selection process prioritizes candidates who take the majority of their prerequisites at one of the Ventura County Community College District Campuses or Santa Barbara City College. After the initial 40 are drawn, interviews are conducted. At the conclusion of the interview process, 20 students are selected for admission. The remaining applicants are placed on an alternate list to fill any available spaces should an admitted student decline a place in the program. Students not accepted must reapply each year.

There is currently no wait list. Enrollment in the program reflects the demographics of the surrounding area. The application period is from January 1st – March 1st of the spring semester prior to fall entry. Students interested in applying to the Dental Hygiene program should meet with an Oxnard College counselor first.

Dental Hygiene Program Admission

In order to qualify for admission, students must have:

1. Earned an Associate degree, including a minimum of 60 semester units (or 90 quarter units).
2. Completed one of the following general education patterns:
 - a. Cal-GETC
 - b. IGETC
 - c. CSU GE-Breadth
3. Completed all program prerequisite courses listed in the program requirements in the Oxnard College catalog prior to applying for admission to the Dental Hygiene program.
4. Earned a minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0.

5. Completed all science prerequisites no more than 5 years prior to application to the Dental Hygiene program and they must have been completed with a 3.0 GPA.
6. Provided transcripts from all colleges attended.

After admission to the Dental Hygiene program, students must:

1. Complete 55.5 semester units of upper division Dental Hygiene Major coursework as designated in the Oxnard College catalog.
2. Complete all required upper division (300 and 400 level) Dental Hygiene Major coursework with a minimum grade of "C" or better (or "P" if allowed) in each course.
3. Complete 9 semester units of upper division general education coursework as designated in the program requirements.
4. Complete a minimum of 125.5 semester units.

Note: The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene is a cohort model program that requires full-time enrollment.

Course ID	Title	Units/ Hours
Program Required Prerequisite Courses		
ANAT R101	General Human Anatomy	4
CHEM R110 or CHEM R120	Elementary Chemistry General Chemistry I	5
CHEM R112	Elementary Organic and Biological Chemistry	5
PHSO R101	Human Physiology	5
MICR R100	Principles of Microbiology	3
MICR R100L	Principles of Microbiology Laboratory	2
DH R001	Pre-Dental Hygiene	1
ENGL C1000 or ENGL C1000H	Academic Reading and Writing Academic Reading and Writing - Honors	4
Mathematics requirement - choose one course from the following:		3-4
STAT C1000 or STAT C1000H	Introduction to Statistics Introduction to Statistics - Honors	4
Critical Thinking requirement - choose one course from the following:		3-4
ENGL R102 or ENGL R102H or ENGL C1001 or PHIL R111	Critical Thinking through Composition and Literature Honors: Critical Thinking through Composition and Literature Critical Thinking and Writing Critical Thinking and Analytic Writing	
COMM C1000	Introduction to Public Speaking	3
COMM R102	Introduction to Communication Studies	3
Ethnic Studies Requirement: choose one course from the following:		3
ANTH R107 or ANTH R107H or ETHS R107 or ETHS R107H or ANTH R119 or BRS R101 or ETHS R119	Introduction to Native American Studies Honors: Introduction to Native American Studies Introduction to Native American Studies Honors: Introduction to Native American Studies Introduction to Border Studies Introduction to Border Studies Introduction to Border Studies	

or CHST R101	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies	
or ETHS R134	African-American Literature	
or ENGL R134	African-American Literature	
PSYC C1000	Introduction to Psychology	3
or PSYC C1000H	Introduction to Psychology - Honors	
SOC R101	Introduction to Sociology	3
or SOC R101H	Honors: Introduction to Sociology	
Total Lower Division Required Prerequisite Units		50-52
CSU GE-Breadth Minimum Units		39
Double-Counted Units (from prerequisites)		-31
Lower Division Transferable Free Electives		0-2
Total Lower Division Units		60
OR		
Total Lower Division Required Prerequisite Units		50-52
IGETC Minimum Units		37
Double-Counted Units (from prerequisites)		-28
Lower Division Transferable Free Electives		0-1
Total Lower Division Units		60-61
OR		
Total Lower Division Required Prerequisite Units		50-52
Cal-GETC Minimum Units		34
Double-Counted Units (from prerequisites)		-28
Lower Division Transferable Free Electives		2-4
Total Lower Division Units		60

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

Students must have an Associate degree with one of the following general education patterns completed (Cal-GETC, IGETC, or CSU GE) as well as the completion of the program prerequisite courses prior to applying 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. Consult an Oxnard College Academic counselor for details.

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
Required Upper Division Dental Hygiene Major Courses		
DH R310	Oral Biology	3
DH R311	Oral Radiology	3
DH R312	Head and Neck Anatomy	2.5
DH R313	Dental Health Education Seminar	1
DH R314	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3
DH R315	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	2
DH R320	Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen	2
DH R321	General and Oral Pathology	4
DH R322	Pharmacology	2
DH R323	Clinical Practice I	3
DH R324	Clinic Seminar I	3

DH R325	Periodontics I	2
DH R430	Care for Special Needs and Geriatric Patients	1
DH R431	Nutrition in Dentistry	1
DH R432	Dental Materials and Expanded Functions	2
DH R433	Clinic Seminar II	2
DH R434	Clinical Practice II	4
DH R435	Periodontics II	2
DH R436	Community Oral Health I	2
DH R440	Advanced Clinical Topics	2
DH R441	Practice Management	1
DH R442	Clinic Seminar III	2
DH R443	Clinical Practice III	4
DH R444	Community Oral Health II	1
DH R445	Ethics and Jurisprudence of Dental Hygiene	1
Complete the following three courses in Upper Division General Education		9
COMM R316	Organizational Communication	3
PSY R437	Research Design and Methodology	3
HED R446	Optimizing Health Across the Lifespan: Key Considerations	3
Total Required Upper Division Major Units		55.5
Total Upper Division General Education Units		9
Total Upper Division Units		64.5
Total Lower Division Units		60 - 61
Total Units Required for the B.S. Degree		125.5 - 126.5

Note: All 300 and 400 level DH courses (upper division major courses) must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" or better (or "P" if allowed) in each course.

Year 1

Fall Semester		Units/Hours
DH R310	Oral Biology	3
DH R311	Oral Radiology	3
DH R312	Head and Neck Anatomy	2.5
DH R313	Dental Health Education Seminar	1
DH R314	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3
DH R315	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	2
COMM R316	Organizational Communication	3
Units/Hours		17.5

Spring Semester

DH R320	Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen	2
DH R321	General and Oral Pathology	4
DH R322	Pharmacology	2
DH R323	Clinical Practice I	3
DH R324	Clinic Seminar I	3
DH R325	Periodontics I	2
Units/Hours		16

Year 2

Fall Semester		
DH R430	Care for Special Needs and Geriatric Patients	1
DH R431	Nutrition in Dentistry	1
DH R432	Dental Materials and Expanded Functions	2
DH R433	Clinic Seminar II	2
DH R434	Clinical Practice II	4

DH R435	Periodontics II	2
PSY R437	Research Design and Methodology	3
DH R436	Community Oral Health I	2
Units/Hours		17
Spring Semester		
DH R440	Advanced Clinical Topics	2
DH R441	Practice Management	1
DH R442	Clinic Seminar III	2
DH R443	Clinical Practice III	4
DH R444	Community Oral Health II	1
DH R445	Ethics and Jurisprudence of Dental Hygiene	1
HED R446	Optimizing Health Across the Lifespan: Key Considerations	3
Units/Hours		14
Total Units/Hours		64.5

- 1. Provide the highest caliber of comprehensive individualized patient care in a variety of dental health care settings to individuals from diverse socioeconomic, educational, and cultural backgrounds.
- 2. Demonstrate competence in performing the local anesthetic techniques used in the practice of dental hygiene.
- 3. Integrate evidence-based practice with problem solving and critical thinking skills to inform clinical judgement and decision making when constructing a dental hygiene care plan.
- 4. Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and values necessary for positions of responsibility in a variety of healthcare, educational, clinical, business, research, administration, and community settings.
- 5. Use interpersonal skills and cultural awareness to communicate effectively with diverse population groups and with other healthcare providers.
- 6. Manage their fundamental roles both ethically and professionally.
- 7. Pursue life-long growth and development through participation in professional organizations, research, and continuing education.