Dental Hygiene

Contact Information
Rhonda Edwardson, department chair
701-671-2967
Rhonda.Edwardson@ndscs.edu
Mayme Green Allied Health Center 213

The Dental Hygiene program is designed to prepare students as professionals in the discipline of dental hygiene. The dental hygienist, a licensed member of the dental health team, provides dental health education, promotes and encourages the preventive aspects of dental care, removes stains and deposits from teeth, exposes and processes dental radiographs, administers local anesthesia, provides many other patient treatment procedures, and assumes other responsibilities in the dental office.

Career Opportunities
Dental hygienists are typically employed in general dental practices or specialty practices. Dental hygienists also can apply their skills and knowledge in other career activities including public health, corporate dental representative, dental office management, and dental hygiene education depending on the level of education and experience they have achieved.

Dental Hygiene Curriculum
The Dental Hygiene program consists of classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences emphasizing skill development, self-assessment, and professionalism offered over five continuous semesters. The majority of the clinical experience is in the NDSCS dental clinic. Students are also assigned to off-campus affiliation sites to enhance their dental hygiene education. Students must provide their own transportation to off-campus affiliation sites. Criminal background checks will be required. A felony charge and/or conviction may affect participation in clinical experience(s), and therefore, program completion. If this issue applies, the student must meet with the department chair.

The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-2678.

The program adheres to the NDSCS Equal Opportunity Policy as stated in the NDSCS Catalog. Dental Hygiene Program Competencies, Program Goals, and Essential Functions are available on the website at www.ndscs.edu.

Admission Requirements*
Applicants will be admitted to the program following a selection process. The following requirements must be met by March 1 to be considered for selection. Applicants that apply after the March 1 deadline can complete the admission requirements and be placed on a waiting list. Late applicants may be selected based on points if openings become available until the first day of class fall semester.

1. Complete the NDSCS Admission process and submit an official high school transcript and all official college transcripts to Enrollment Services.
2. Applicants without a United States high school transcript (four years), will be required to complete English language proficiency exam(s) and meet the benchmark score(s) prior to continuing the selection process. Contact the program to schedule the assessments if this applies.
3. Complete the Supplemental Program Application for Dental Hygiene.
4. Submit to Enrollment Services an official college transcript(s) with a minimum of twelve college semester credits or a minimum GPA of 2.50.
5. Submit the Dental Hygiene Observation Hours form with a minimum of 4 hours.
6. Complete the admission assessment examination and meet the program benchmark score of 50. The exam can be retaken once.
7. Complete pre-requisite courses by January 1:
   - Introductory Chemistry (CHEM 115 and 115L), Anatomy and Physiology I (BIOL 220 and 220L) including College Composition I (ENGL 110).
   - Complete pre-requisite course by May 15:
     - Anatomy and Physiology II (BIOL 221 and 221L) with a "C" or higher.
8. Additional admission points will also be awarded for:
   - Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry (CHEM 116 and 116L), Elementary Statistics (MATH 210), In-progress Grades Form submitted to program by March 1.
9. Review Essential Functions for Allied Dental Education Students and submit the Essential Functions Verification form.

Course Code Course Title Credits
DHYG 101 Pre-Clinic 1
DHYG 101L Pre-Clinic Lab 3
DHYG 102 Clinic I 1
DHYG 102L Clinic I Lab 4
DHYG 103 Clinic II 1
DHYG 103L Clinic II Lab 3
DHYG 110 Oral Anatomy 2
DHYG 112 Oral Embryology and Histology 1
DHYG 114 Dental Radiology 3
DHYG 145 Periodontics I 1
DHYG 201 Clinic III 1
DHYG 201L Clinic III Lab 4
DHYG 202 Clinic IV 1
DHYG 202L Clinic IV Lab 4
DHYG 205 Dental Pharmacology 2
DHYG 209 Head and Neck Anatomy 1
DHYG 210 Local Anesthesia 1
DHYG 212 Oral Pathology 1
DHYG 220 Community Dental Health 2
DHYG 242 Dental Materials 3
DHYG 243 Dental Jurisprudence 1
DHYG 245 Periodontics II 1

Related/General Education Courses
Biol 213 General Pathology 3
CHEM 116 Intro to Organic and Biochemistry 3
CHEM 116L Intro to Organic and Biochemistry Lab 1
CIS 101 Computer Literacy 2
COMM 110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 3
FYE 101 Science of Success 1
ENGL 120 College Composition II 3
MICR 202 Introductory Microbiology 3
MICR 202L Introductory Microbiology Lab 1
NUTR 240 Principles of Nutrition (and Diet Therapy) 3
PSYC 111 Introduction to Psychology 3
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology 3

Total Required Credits 71

Selection process details, contact information and forms are located in the Dental Hygiene Program Information and Selection Process Booklet available at www.ndscs.edu/dental (click on Program Selection Process) or contact the program at alliedhealthcareers@ndscs.edu.

The program is a limited enrollment program. Applicants will be selected on a point system. Once program capacity is reached, an alternate list will be established based on points. It is recommended that applicants stay in close contact with the program as they complete their admission requirements.

Program Admission Requirements are subject to revision. Please check the department or program website under Program Admission Requirements for current information.

For accepted students, specific immunizations, background checks, CPR certification (American Heart Association BLS Provider OR American Red Cross CPR/AED Professional Rescuer course ONLY), health insurance and documentation of a current eye exam are required and must remain current while in the program. Additional prerequisites (e.g. drug screening/finger printing) may be required dependent on site-specific student prerequisites. All requirements will be at the students' expense.

Licensure requirements for dental hygienists include successful completion of the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination and a regional clinical examination. All states have additional licensure requirements. A criminal background check will be required and a felony conviction may affect state licensure.

Award
Upon program completion of the required courses ("C" or higher), students will be awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

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