

## Dental Hygiene

### Contact Information

Stacy Owens, Program Coordinator  
 Stacy.Owens@ndscs.edu  
 701-671-2522  
 Mayme Green Allied Health Center 213N

### Delivery Methods

Face to Face: Wahpeton

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](http://www.NDSCS.edu).

This program requires access to a personal laptop and printer, capable of completing the assignments/testing required by the program, with a current operating system and webcam/microphone. Tablets and Chromebooks are not compatible with online classes/testing.

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 151L	Pre-Clinic Simulation Lab	1
DHYG 152L	Simulation Lab I	1
DHYG 153L	Simulation Lab II	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
DHYG 251L	Simulation Lab III	1
DHYG 252L	Simulation Lab IV	1

### Related/General Education Courses

BIOL 213	General Pathology	3
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
<b>Total Required Credits</b>		<b>72</b>

### Admission/Selection 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 selection 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 an official college transcript(s) with a minimum of twelve college semester credits and a GPA of 2.50 or higher.
5. Review career link and submit the Dental Hygiene Career Review form.
6. Complete the selection assessment examination and meet the program benchmark score of **55**. The exam can be retaken once. Check with program for current assessment(s) required.
7. Complete pre-requisite courses by **January 1**: Introductory Chemistry (CHEM 115 and 115L), Anatomy and Physiology I (BIOL 220 and 220L) and 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 completing classes at NDSCS.
9. Review Essential Functions for Allied Dental Education Students and submit the signed Essential Functions Verification form.

**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](http://www.NDSCS.edu/Dental) (click on Program Selection Process) or contact the program at [AlliedHealthCareers@ndscs.edu](mailto: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 selection requirements.

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

For *accepted* students, specific immunizations, criminal background checks, CPR certification (Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider by American Heart Association (AHA) OR Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers from American Red Cross (ARC) ONLY), and health insurance, are required by the program. *Additional requirements could include but not limited to; drug screening/ finger printing, state background checks, and COVID-19 vaccinations dependent on clinical site-specific student prerequisites. \*All requirements must remain current while in the program and 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, i.e., CRDTS, WREB. Individual 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.