

Requirements and Information

To graduate from the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Education Program, enrolled students must complete the required amount of credit hours, as well as other academic requirements.

Actual credit hour requirements will vary from 41-46 hours, based on the individual background of the student. In addition to the required core, students must complete one of the minors listed below.

- DHED 715: Current Concepts in Clinical Skills
- DHED 720: Educational Concepts
- DHED 736: Clinical/Laboratory Teaching
- DHED 760: Seminar in Education and Research
- DENG 701: Research Design
- DHED 730: Organization and Administration
- DHED 993: Master's Research and Thesis
- DHED 860: Seminar in Education and Research
- DENG 702: Biostatistics
- DHED 837: Internship and Teaching Practicum in Allied Dental Education

Additional courses are completed through the specialization tracks:

Specialization Tracks

- Clinical Education
- Public Health
- Inter-professional Education
- Management and Administration

Specializations

A unique learning experience is gained from the curricular opportunities in specialization tracks. Learners select one track of interest and gain unique opportunities to expand experiences. Courses offer opportunities with interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration including the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing, Gillings School of Public Health, and others!

Clinical Education

The clinical education specialization track emphasizes a strong foundation and advanced skills in clinical education. The track enhances evidenced-based teaching principles to excel in the preparation of tomorrow's oral health practitioners. Learners may also complete a clinical education track with an emphasis in periodontology. This track expands on clinical education

to include advanced clinical training and teaching in the graduate periodontology and prosthodontic clinics.

Interprofessional Education

The Inter-professional Education track was drafted in collaboration with the UNC Chapel Hill Office of inter-professional Education and Practice. The purpose of this track is to design innovative training for dental hygienists pursuing an advanced degree and that want to foster inter-professional education and collaborative practice approaches in education and patient care.

Public Health

The Public Health track was designed with curriculum specialists in the Gillings School of Public Health. This track provides innovative training for dental hygienists pursuing an advanced degree and that want to foster public health initiatives to enhance and improve education, patient care, and population health.

Management and Administration

The management/administration minor is designed to prepare the graduate student for management roles in health care organizations or administrative settings. We can also have the current grad students do a video on the different specializations and how they have helped them?

Internships

Graduate students transition into experienced educators and researchers through the various opportunities in this program. The final semester includes a high-impact internship designed to further advance skills and experiences. Learners are immersed in a full-time internship that creates real-time learning in environments to support individual goals including dental hygiene programs and Public Health programs.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

An exciting component of this program is the experiential teaching gained throughout all semesters. Dental Hygiene graduate students will gain early exposure through introduction and introductory teaching in the dental hygiene preclinical courses. Learners move the developing stages of clinical teaching competency through immersion and experiential teaching as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) in the undergraduate dental hygiene program and pre-doctoral dental clinics.

Enrolled students also must complete other requirements to be considered program graduates.

- **Master's Thesis:** Each student is required to formulate, implement and complete an original research project under the guidance of a research committee.
- **Comprehensive Examinations:** Successful completion of a written examination is required of each master's candidate. The examination will cover the minor selected by the student and areas in the required core.
- **Time Limits for Completion:** The program begins in August annually and is designed to be completed in two years. The program must be completed within five years from the date of the first registration.
- **Grades:** Required grades are consistent with standards set by the UNC-CH Graduate School.