

Dental Hygiene Curriculum and Course Descriptions

The curriculum is subject to change. Descriptions of the courses are listed on the following pages.

FIRST YEAR - FALL SEMESTER	
TOTAL CREDITS: 15	
Course	Credit Hours
Introduction to Human Anatomy	3
Nutrition	2
Dental Anatomy	2
Dental Radiology	3
Introduction to Dental Hygiene	2
Preclinical Dental Hygiene	3

FIRST YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER	
TOTAL CREDITS: 17	
Course	Credit Hours
Dental Pharmacology	2
Dental Health Education	2
Dental Materials	3
Dental Hygiene Theory	3
Histology	1
Periodontology	2
Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
Radiographic Interpretation	1

SECOND YEAR - FALL SEMESTER	
CREDIT HOURS: 17	
Course	Credit Hours
General and Oral Pathology	3
Community Dental Health	3
Oral Microbiology	2
Current Concepts in Periodontics	2
Special Care in Dentistry	2
Clinical Dental Hygiene	5

SECOND YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER	
TOTAL CREDITS: 12	
Course	Credit Hours
Community Dental Health Internship	1
Clinical Dental Hygiene	4
Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence	1
Dental Hygiene Specialty Practicum	5
Dental Hygiene Elective	1



Dental Hygiene Course Descriptions

Fall (First-Year Dental Hygiene)
CBIO 741 Introduction to Human Anatomy (3).
This course serves as an introduction to the anatomy of the human body. The course covers anatomical structures and their relationships for most regions of the body, with a particular emphasis on structures of the head and neck. Students will leave this course not only with knowledge of the structure and relationships among parts of the body, but will also be conversant with anatomical terminology that will be used in other basic science courses and in their clinical practice.
DHYG 241 Nutrition (2).
Course content addresses the principles and practices of human nutrition as applied to the nutritional needs of individuals at any point in the health illness continuum, throughout the lifespan and across diverse cultural groups. Analysis of diet and application of diet modification strategies to assist in attaining and maintaining optimum oral health are stressed.
DHYG 252 Dental Radiology (3).
This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of theories and principles in dental radiography. Lectures, seminars and preclinical laboratories will be used to prepare the student on the use of ionizing radiation in dentistry.
DHYG 253 Dental Anatomy (2).
This course is designed to provide opportunities for the student to learn the structure, morphology and function of the teeth and their supporting structures. Lectures, labs and identification exercises are incorporated. These will emphasize normal clinical appearance of the teeth and oral tissues as they apply to clinical dental hygiene.
DHYG 257 Introduction to Dental Hygiene (2).
This course will provide the student with the basic concepts and theories related to the performance of clinical dental hygiene. The course will provide an introduction to the UNC School of Dentistry patient care system. Opportunities will be provided for the student to identify his/her role as a dental hygienist with an emphasis on personal and professional development.
DHYG 257L Preclinical Dental Hygiene (3).
Laboratory exercises will allow for the development of competency in technical and judgmental skills necessary for clinical procedures. Peer patient experience will provide an introduction to the patient care system. Opportunities will be provided for the student to identify his or her role as a dental hygienist with an emphasis on personal and professional development.

Spring (First-Year Dental Hygiene)	
DHYG 261 Dental Pharmacology (2).	
	A survey course of pharmacology with emphasis on general principles and pharmacological action of and adverse reactions to commonly used drugs, especially those used in dentistry. The effect of drugs used to treat common medical problems on dental patients is also emphasized.
DHYG 262 Dental Health Education (2).	
	This course should prepare students to assess, develop, implement and evaluate preventive dental services for individual patients and groups within the community. The course will explore cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills which must be developed to produce a knowledgeable health professional. During the course of the semester the student will be assisted in developing a personal philosophy regarding his/her role in the prevention of oral diseases and demonstrate a personal commitment to proper oral hygiene. Instruction in four areas will be presented which include preventing disease, behavior modification, communication skills and patient management skills.
DHYG 263 Periodontology (2).	
	This course includes a study of basic oral histology and embryology with an in-depth study of the anatomy and histology of the periodontium and changes that occur in the presence of disease processes. Pathogenesis and etiology of periodontal diseases and mechanisms of tissue destruction are also emphasized. Clinical management of periodontal patients is covered.
DHYG 264 Histology (1).	
	This course includes a study of basic orofacial histology and embryology with emphasis on clinical application.
DHYG 265 Dental Materials (3).	
	This course provides a sound knowledge base in the science of dental materials. The student is introduced to the physical, mechanical, electrical and biological characteristics of dental materials. Emphasis is placed on why specific materials are used rather than solely upon the techniques of manipulating materials. The primary goal of this course is to enhance the student's ability to make clinical judgments regarding the application of dental materials and the ways in which these materials react to the oral environment. The clinical application of dental materials and its relationship to the oral environment and the scope of practice of dental hygiene are emphasized in lectures and labs.
DHYG 267 Dental Hygiene Theory (3).	
	This course provides the student with an expanded knowledge of clinical dental hygiene. Lecture/laboratory topics will include fluoride and other preventive agents, topical and local anesthesia, dental caries etiology and detection, management of dental office medical emergencies, nitrous oxide, air abrasives and dental assisting skills. The course also includes a seminar component introducing the student to various specialties in dentistry.
DHYG 267L Clinical Dental Hygiene (3).	
	This course is designed to provide the student with continued experience in and knowledge of clinical dental hygiene. Clinical experiences will provide the opportunity to employ basic preventive skills and professional behavior.
DHYG 414 Radiographic Interpretation (1).	
	This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of theories and principles used in the systematic analysis of dental radiographic images. Lectures and self-instructional resources will be used to expose the student to a variety of diagnostic images representing normal anatomic appearances.



Fall (Second-Year Dental Hygiene)

DHYG 351 General and Oral Pathology (3).

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of basic pathology and the recognition of abnormalities in the oral regions. Common oral disease conditions and conditions which alter routine dental care are covered.

DHYG 352 Community Dental Health (3).

This course is designed to aid dental hygiene students in realizing their potential as dynamic members of the community. Instruction, activities and assignments will strengthen the students' understanding of and ability to work effectively with a variety of people and organizations within a community. Emphasis will be placed on community assessment and diagnosis, program planning, implementation and evaluation, school screening and existing dental health programs.

DHYG 357 Clinical Dental Hygiene (5).

Students will begin to prepare for the transition from dental hygiene student to registered dental hygienist. Students will be provided guidance in increasing clinical competency in basic dental hygiene skills and problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on comprehensive patient care.

DHYG 401 Oral Microbiology (2).

This course emphasizes the microbiological and immunological factors impacting not only the oral environment but the entire human body. Emphasis is placed on clinical applications of microbiology and immunology, which may include some laboratory experiences.

DHYG 402 Special Care in Dentistry (2).

This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the physiological, psychological and sociological aspects of treating patients with special needs. Lectures, self-instructional materials and hands-on experiences will be used to prepare the student to provide dental care to these special population groups.

DHYG 403 Current Concepts in Periodontics (2).

Current concepts of factors involved in the occurrence and treatment of periodontal disease will be studied through lectures, case presentations and the periodontal literature. Special emphasis will be placed on the potential role of the dental hygienists in periodontal therapy.



Spring (Second-Year Dental Hygiene)

DHYG 362 Community Dental Health Internship (1).

This course is designed to help the senior dental hygiene student to apply the knowledge gained in DHYG 352 about assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating a dental health program plan for an assigned community of people. The assigned communities include Smart Start Centers, Senior Centers and Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers. Students will work in groups to visit the assigned centers, and develop and carry out a dental health program during the semester. Evaluation of this course will be through the development of a manual, site evaluation and self-evaluation.

DHYG 367 Clinical Dental Hygiene (4).

This course is designed to prepare the learner for the transition from student to practitioner. Didactic topics will include a review of the North Carolina dental laws and regulations, recall and office management systems, professional liability, interviewing and team building. The clinical portion of this course is designed to help each student reach clinical competency and prepare for clinical practice.

DHYG 363 Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence (1).

This course is designed to present ethical problems in dentistry and to suggest approaches to their resolution. Emphasis will be placed on ethical theory, moral reasoning and behavior, ethical decision making, ethical issues in third party financing and discussing harassment. Case studies will be utilized to discuss various approaches to ethical decision making.

DHYG 393 Dental Hygiene Specialty Practicum (5).

This course is a culmination of in-depth study in dental hygiene. Through lectures and a series of specialized laboratory, clinical, pediatric dentistry, geriatric dentistry, hospital and/or community dental experiences at selected on and off-campus training sites, the expanding role of the dental hygienist in health care delivery systems is emphasized.

Dental Hygiene Electives	
DHYG 390 Current Topics in Dental Hygiene (1).	This online course is designed to help the dental hygiene student identify and explore current issues and topics related to dentistry and specifically to dental hygiene. The course will take the format of a study club and will involve student participation in the identification and discussion of the topic selected.
DHYG 411 Death and Dying During Life's Experience (1).	This course is designed to provide the student with an awareness of the death and dying process. Emphasis will be placed on how the individual views death, societal views of death, coping with death and dying, the grieving process, the funeral process and working with terminally ill patients. An optional field trip will be scheduled to a local funeral home and/or crematorium.
DHYG 415 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene (1-3).	This course will include a series of seminars and clinical opportunities in a selected dental setting which will provide the student with an in-depth experience in patient management and the development of advanced clinical skills. Self-instructional modules are available for review of clinical techniques for various procedures if needed.
DHYG 417 Introduction to Dental Office Management (1).	This course is designed to introduce the student to dental office management and teach the student necessary skills to function as a productive dental team member. Emphasis will be placed on the practical aspects of office management and team building. Course content will focus on hiring and firing, computers, insurance, risk management, conflict resolution and marketing strategies.
DHYG 419 Research Methodology (1).	This course will include topics designed to familiarize the student with the research process from planning a research project and implementing the research plan to evaluating results obtained. The primary emphasis will be on relating topics to research in dentistry and dental hygiene. Each student will participate in a research project on a selected topic.
DHYG 422 Dental Hygiene Service Learning (2).	The course is designed to provide the student with service learning experiences to provide oral health screenings, patient education/oral hygiene instructions and referral services in a community-based setting serving special needs individuals. The course will allow the student to integrate and apply a broad scope of curriculum content knowledge and clinical skills in a community-based setting. Faculty mentors will facilitate the service learning opportunities with those students selected for participation in this course. The students will develop projects designed to meet the needs of the community organization clients.
DHYG 423 Community-Based Dental Hygiene Service Learning (1-3).	This course will include a variety of clinical or community opportunities in a selected community setting which will provide the student with an in-depth experience in community-based dental hygiene care and the development of skills necessary for functioning as a member of an interdisciplinary team. Self-instructional modules are available for review of clinical techniques for various procedures if needed. (Participants must be certified in CPR.)
DHYG 595 Research Methodology II (3).	Through independent study and individual meetings, this course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to implement the study designed in the DHYG 419 Research Methodology I course, analyze the data and develop a manuscript. This course will provide an opportunity for the student to be involved in all stages of conducting research.