



Wayne  
County  
Community  
College  
District

# Dental Hygiene

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Dental Hygiene Associate of Science degree program at Wayne County Community College District is a prominent career for individuals interested in working as an important part of the dental healthcare team. The dental hygienist learns specialized clinical skills providing direct patient care and may be responsible for community distribution of information related to the prevention of oral diseases and the maintenance of oral health. The demand for dental services will continue to grow due to the success of preventive dentistry in reducing the incidence of oral diseases. Dentists will need to employ more dental hygienists to meet the increased demand for dental services.



The Dental Hygiene program is designed to prepare students to become competent oral health clinicians and educators. Admission to the program is limited and competitive. Upon completion of this program, students are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, the Commission on Dental Competency Assessment, and the Michigan Board of Dentistry may deny dental hygiene licensure to an applicant who has been convicted of a crime or is addicted to drugs or alcohol.

## WHAT DO DENTAL HYGIENISTS DO?

Dental Hygienists are licensed professionals who perform and deliver oral health care services as regulated under state dental practice acts. Dental Hygienists are responsible for providing treatment to prevent disease such as dental caries and periodontal disease and to helping patients maintain good oral health and preventing dental disease.

## WHERE DO THEY WORK?

The majority of Dental Hygienists work in private dental practices. However, many are expanding their work setting to include administration, education, consulting, sales, and public health managers.

## PAY

As of May 2023, the median annual wage for dental hygienists was \$87,530.

Industry-Specific Wages:

- Offices of Dentists: \$88,450
- Offices of Physicians: \$80,340
- Government: \$71,030

## JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 7 percent from 2022 to 2032.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, June 2024, Dental Hygienists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>*

*Accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.*



## Recommended Sequence of Courses

### Dental Hygiene: Associate of Science (A.S.)

**CR. No. COURSE TITLE CREDITS**

#### PREREQUISITE COURSES

ENG 119	English I	3
ENG 120	English II	3
BIO 155	Introductory Biology	4
BIO 240	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 250	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 295	Microbiology	4
CHM 105	Introduction to Chemistry	4
CHM 155	Survey of Organic and Biochemistry	4
DEN 100	Professional Development	3
PHL 201	Introduction to Philosophy	3
SPH 101	Fundamentals of Speech	3
PSY 101	Introductory Psychology	3
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	3
PS 101	American Government	3
HUM	Humanities Elective	3
<b>PREREQUISITES TOTAL</b>		<b>51</b>

#### **SEMESTER 1**

DHY 101	Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene	3
DHY 110	Oral Anatomy and Physiology	3
DHY 120	Clinical Techniques	3
DEN 112	Medical and Dental Emergencies	2
DT 130	Fundamentals of Nutrition	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

#### **SEMESTER 2**

DHY 111	Oral Histology and Embryology	3
DHY 129	Clinical Dental Hygiene I: Lecture	2
DHY 130	Clinical Dental Hygiene I: Lab	3
DHY 221	Dental Biomaterials	3
DEN 200	Dental Radiology Theory	2
DEN 201	Dental Radiology Lab	2
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

#### **SEMESTER 3**

DHY 131	Clinical Dental Hygiene II: Lecture	2
DHY 132	Clinical Dental Hygiene II: Lab	3
DHY 211	Pharmacology	3
DHY 213	Periodontology	2
DHY 227	Radiology II	1
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>11</b>

#### **SEMESTER 4**

DHY 121	Oral Pathology	3
DHY 209	Clinical Dental Hygiene III: Lecture	2
DHY 210	Clinical Dental Hygiene III: Lab	5
DHY 214	Local Anesthesia and Pain Management	3
DHY 223	Dental Health Education	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>

#### **SEMESTER 5**

DHY 231	Community Dentistry	4
DHY 219	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV: Lecture	2
DHY 220	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV: Lab	5
DHY 225	Management of Special Patients	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

#### **SEMESTER 6**

DHY 226	Advanced Periodontology	1
DHY 229	Clinical Dental Hygiene V: Lecture	2
DHY 230	Clinical Dental Hygiene V: Lab	5
DHY 233	Dental Hygiene Seminar	2
ALH 230	Medical Ethics	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>A.S. PROGRAM TOTAL</b>		<b>83</b>

*Note: Program total hours may not include prerequisites.*

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