

School of Dentistry

Degrees Offered

- Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
- Master of Science in Dental Hygiene

The Profession

Dental hygiene is an exciting profession with many rewarding and challenging career opportunities which include clinical/patient care, administration, education, research, and sales/marketing. Dental hygienists are employed in diverse settings such as private dental practices; clinics; hospitals; long-term care facilities/rehabilitation centers; dental hygiene education; national, state, and local government agencies; and private business/industry. As a licensed health professional and oral health educator, the dental hygienist has an important role in the overall health and welfare of the public. The dental hygienist is an integral part of the dental team, providing direct patient care based on the prevention of disease. The duties and responsibilities of dental hygienists vary from state to state but may include oral prophylaxis (removing stains and deposits from teeth); root debridement; exposing radiographs; application of preventive and therapeutic agents; local delivery of antimicrobial agents; nutritional counseling; oral, head, and neck cancer screenings; monitoring nitrous oxide sedation; and administration of local anesthesia. The educational background of a dental hygienist provides the knowledge, attitudes, and skill necessary to be successful in a wide variety of careers. From providing clinical care to research to public administration, dental hygiene opens the door to many successful career options. For more information concerning licensure, please visit: <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/licensure/>.

Nature of the Program

The establishment of the integrated baccalaureate degree program in dental hygiene at West Virginia University in September 1961 was a milestone in dental hygiene education. The program stands out as one of the top dental hygiene programs nationally as shown by the students' commitment to excellence. With the addition of the degree completion program in 1987 and the master of science program in 1989, the Department of Dental Hygiene provides graduates the opportunity to further their education. The integrated curriculum in dental hygiene combines the advantages of both liberal arts and the professional aspects of education. Graduates from the program are awarded a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene, with the option to obtain a master of science degree with the completion of a minimum of one additional year.

The dental hygiene curriculum is rigorous and provides excellent preparation for the practice of dental hygiene in numerous practice settings. The curriculum requires successful completion of a total of 136 hours and was constructed in accordance with the standards specified for a school of dental hygiene by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program has been fully accredited by this organization since 1965.

The dental hygiene program has a strong commitment to providing care and educational programs to residents of West Virginia, which is demonstrated by the required 125 hours of service learning and clinical care courses. To provide students in dental hygiene program with the necessary clinical experience that is required, the School of Dentistry maintains and operates dental clinics in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry. Through the West Virginia University Institute for Community and Rural Health (WVUICRH), students are required to provide direct patient care for the citizens of West Virginia at a rural site during the summer session between their junior and senior year. Please visit <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/> for more information.

The dental hygiene program has an excellent reputation for producing outstanding clinicians and many faculty members as well as graduates are recognized as leaders in dental education and organized dentistry. Please visit <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/program-of-excellence/> for more information.

Academic and Professional Standards

The Dental Hygiene Academic and Professional Standards, including the Student Rights and Responsibilities, are available at: <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/academic-professional-standards/>

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Amy D. Funk - MSDH
(WVU)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- M. Suann Gaydos - MSDH
(WVU)
- Alcinda K. T. Shockey - BSDH, MA, DHSc

(NOVA Southeastern University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Kristafer L. Adkins - MSDH (WVU)
- Lisa E. Lisacukis - MSDH (WVU)
- Rhonda J. Soberdash - CDA, EFDA, RDH, MA (Indiana University of PA)
- Ashlee B. Sowards - MSDH (WVU)

CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

- Julie A. Blanco - RDH, BS, MEd (Frostburg State University)

Degree Designation Learning Goals

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE (BSDH)

Program Goals:

1. Provide a high quality program of instruction that prepares dental hygienists to:
 - Possess a heightened awareness of social and cultural diversity, ethics and professionalism.
 - Apply critical thinking to integrate current scientific principles/technology with the provision of evidenced-based, comprehensive health care.
 - Perform to the level of clinical competency those legally approved oral health services as defined by the West Virginia State Board of Dental Examiners and the WVU School of Dentistry.
 - Perform to the level of laboratory competency those legally approved oral health services (beyond the scope of the West Virginia practice act) stipulated in the practice acts of other states, districts, or territories of the United States.
 - Coordinate and administer oral health services for a variety of populations in diverse settings (public health agencies, hospitals, school systems, etc.).
 - Engage in intra and interprofessional collaborative activities with community leaders and health care professionals to manage the oral health needs of rural West Virginia.
 - Provide didactic and clinical instruction in allied dental education programs.
 - Pursue professional development through self-study, continuing education, research and advanced studies at the masters and doctoral levels.
2. Recruit, admit and retain students with the potential to succeed within the dental hygiene program.
3. Create an environment conducive to faculty promotion, retention, and satisfaction.

Program Competencies:

1. Apply the concepts of professionalism, ethics, law, and regulation to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of social/cultural diversity issues.
3. Apply basic, dental hygiene, and dental science concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.
4. Provide the dental hygiene process of care which includes assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation components that are both evidence-based and patient-centered.
5. Provide dental hygiene care to children, adolescents, adults, geriatrics, special needs patients, and persons with medically compromising conditions.
6. Implement evidence-based tobacco cessation strategies utilizing the 5 A's (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, & Arrange) for all tobacco using patients.
7. Provide dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal disease, including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.
8. Provide dental hygiene/dental supportive treatment that is both evidence-based and patient-centered.
9. Provide appropriate life support measures for any medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.
10. Assess, plan, implement, and evaluate community-based oral health programs to promote health and prevent disease among a variety of population groups in diverse settings.
11. Demonstrate interpersonal and group communications skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups.
12. Apply biostatistical principles in the analysis of scientific literature and the design and interpretation of a student-based research project.
13. Design courses, provide didactic and clinical instruction, and implement evaluation strategies in allied dental education programs.
14. Identify career options within the dental hygiene profession.
15. Participate in activities that promote life long learning and professional growth.
16. Engage in intra and interprofessional team building activities that foster collaborative learning.

ADMISSION

To apply to the program, please go to <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/bachelor-of-science/apply-now/> and follow the directions provided. You do not need to complete a separate application for WVU, you must choose Dental Hygiene in the WVU on-line application to be considered for the Program. Additionally, all applicants, regardless of admission type, **must** complete the following before your application will be reviewed by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee. Please send the documents electronically to Ms. Lori Groover at lgroover@hsc.wvu.edu.

1. Shadowing forms (minimum of eight hours, although more are recommended - shadowing forms must be saved and upload as one single PDF document)
Forms may be found at <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/media/1366/dental-hygiene-applicant-shadowing-form.jpeg>
2. Shadowing essay – describe what you experienced, watched, learned, etc. while shadowing a dental hygienist
3. Personal essay – one page essay outlining why you want to be a dental hygienist

The Dental Hygiene Admissions committee reviews all applications and pays particular attention to scholastic achievement in science courses as well as overall grade point average and involvement in community service activities. Physical strength with the ability to sit and stand is required, fine precision bilateral manipulative hand/motor skills, adequate visual acuity, eye/hand/foot coordination, and emotional stability are essential characteristics for individuals who wish to enter and continue in the dental hygiene program. Applicants must meet other medical qualifications as required. Reasonable accommodations will be considered for students with special needs.

Competition for admission is intense. If you are among the most qualified, you will be invited to the campus for a personal interview. You must confirm via email, your receipt of the email message from the Division of Dental Hygiene (via lgroover@hsc.wvu.edu) that you will be attending your scheduled interview session. If you do not respond within 14 working days from the date of the aforementioned email, you will not be considered for the upcoming class. The personal interview with the Dental Hygiene Committee will be conducted in a question / answer format. After the interview, if for any reason the Committee does not feel you will be an acceptable candidate in the Program, you will not be offered admission to the Program.

Following the interview with the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee, students who have been offered provisional acceptance will receive an email via their MIX account from the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee which outlines the new student requirements Please see <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/education/programs/dental-hygiene-programs/bachelor-of-science/new-student-requirements/> for more information. Final acceptance to the Department of Dental Hygiene at West Virginia University is contingent on successful completion of new student requirements and of the following:

1. Successful completion of all courses currently enrolled and submit all final transcripts.
2. Complete the Criminal Background document. Scan and email this document to lgroover@hsc.wvu.edu as soon as possible to ensure the Committee will have your report prior to the interview.
3. Complete required health evaluation forms by August 1, 2018.
4. Attend WVU New Student Orientation on one of the dates provided by the Dental Hygiene program.
5. Attend the Dental Hygiene Orientation picnic.

If you are not offered a position in the Dental Hygiene Program, you may still be accepted into WVU. Please visit <http://admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/university-requirements> for more information.

Direct Admission (First Time Freshman Entry)

Applicants that will be first time freshman are considered for direct admission. As an integrated four year program, there are no prerequisite college courses required for first time freshman entry, but additional science courses on the high school level are recommended. Applications for the 2017 fall semester are available from July 1, 2017 to February 1, 2018. Direct admission is based on the above mentioned criteria plus a minimum high school grade point average of 3.7 and a composite score on ACT 24 or total combined critical reading and math score on SAT 1210. Additionally, applicants must meet all the University admission requirements which are available at <http://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/first-time-freshmen>. To be eligible for enrollment, the applicant must be a graduate of an accredited high school or preparatory school that is acceptable for college entrance. Please visit the West Virginia University website for more information: <http://admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/university-requirements>.

If you do not meet the minimum requirements for direct admission, you will be placed in Undergraduate Studies/Pre-Dental Hygiene. Applicants in Undergraduate Studies still may be considered for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program (first time freshman entry) provided there are remaining openings in the class.

Advanced Standing Admission

Applicants may be eligible to enter the program as a spring semester freshman or an advanced standing sophomore. Admission is limited by class size and successful completion of college courses **does not guarantee** advanced standing admission. You **must contact the Department** directly to request consideration and be granted approval to apply for either spring or advanced standing sophomore admission.

Spring admission:

To be considered for Spring admission, Freshman year, applications are due by October 1st of the preceding fall semester. Admission is based on a minimum cumulative and science grade point average of 3.0 and successful completion (with a grade of C or better) of Chemistry 111 or a higher level Chemistry course and additional courses as prescribed in the first semester of the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Plan.

Advanced standing sophomore admission:

To be considered as an advanced standing sophomore, applications are due by February 1st of the preceding spring semester. Admission is based on a minimum cumulative and science grade point average of 3.0 and successful completion (with a grade of C or better) of all science courses prescribed in the first semester of the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Plan.

Degree Completion Program

If you are a registered dental hygienist, you can be admitted directly to the Division of Dental Hygiene as a full-time or a part-time student. You **must contact the Department** directly to request consideration and be granted approval to apply for the degree completion program. Admission is limited by class size and successful completion of a certificate or associate's degree from an accredited dental hygiene program in the United States or Canada does not guarantee entrance into the Program. You can transfer lower-division credits (see "Suggested Dental Hygiene Curriculum"). In addition to your application, to be considered for the program, you must have successfully completed both national and clinical board exams, have a minimum of 3.0 overall and science grade point averages, and a personal essay on why you want to complete your baccalaureate degree in Dental Hygiene.

When you apply, we ask you to include complete records of previous study. An official transcript needs to be mailed to us by the registrar of your previous school. Include catalog descriptions of the courses taken. If you are currently enrolled in a certificate or associate's degree program, include your program of study. You are responsible for the submission of a complete record package. Applications can be obtained after July 1st of the year preceding application to the program. Please contact the Dental Hygiene office for complete information about this program in dental hygiene.

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 6)

GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Program Requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required		
GEF Requirements 1, 6 & 7		12
BIOL 102	General Biology	3
BIOL 104	General Biology Laboratory	1
CHEM 111	Survey of Chemistry (GEF 2B)	4
CHEM 112	Survey of Chemistry	4
COMM 104	Public Communication (GEF 5)	3
HN&F 171	Introduction to Human Nutrition (GEF 8)	3
Select one of the following (GEF 3):		3

MATH 126A	College Algebra 5-Day	
MATH 126B	College Algebra 4-Day	
MATH 126C	College Algebra 3-Day	
MICB 200	Medical Microbiology	3
NBAN 107	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
NBAN 207	Human Anatomy and Physiology 2	4
NBAN 309	Oral Histology	2
PATH 300	Introduction to Pathology	3
PATH 302	Oral Pathology	3
PCOL 260	Pharmacology	3
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)	3
PSYC 241	Introduction to Human Development (GEF 8)	3
SOCA 101	Introduction to Sociology (GEF 8)	3
DTHY 100	Health Care Terminology	1
DTHY 101	Introduction to Dental Hygiene	2
DTHY 185	Oral Anatomy	2
DTHY 186	Dental Anatomy	2
DTHY 205	Theory and Practice of Prevention	2
DTHY 210	Dental Radiology	2
DTHY 211	Dental Radiology	1
DTHY 220	Dental Nursing Techniques	2
DTHY 225	Dental Hygiene Techniques	4
DTHY 226	Clinical Dental Hygiene	1
DTHY 300	Anesthesia for Dental Hygiene	1
DTHY 350	Public Health	2
DTHY 351	Dental Health Education (Fulfills Writing and Communication Skills Requirement)	3
DTHY 360	Dental Materials	3
DTHY 361	Expanded Functions	2
DTHY 363	Periodontics 1	1
DTHY 364	Periodontics 2	2
DTHY 366	Technical Expression and Dental Literature	1
DTHY 370	Dental Hygiene Clinical Methods	2
DTHY 372	Clinical Dental Hygiene 1	2
DTHY 374	Clinical Dental Hygiene 2	3
DTHY 378	Dental Hygiene Teaching Methods	2
DTHY 402	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Practice	1
DTHY 405	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene 1	4
DTHY 406	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene 2	3
DTHY 407	Advanced Dental Hygiene Methods 2	2
DTHY 440	Senior Integration Seminar	1
DTHY 445	Applied Pharmacology	1
DTHY 450	Dental Health Education 2	2
DTHY 451	Dental Health Education 3	2
DTHY 478	Clinical Evaluation	1
DTHY 490	Teaching Practicum	2
DTHY 491	Professional Field Experience	4
DTHY 495	Independent Study	2
Community Service Requirement (Please see advisor)		

Total Hours

132

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
CHEM 111 (GEF 2B)	4 BIOL 102	3
DTHY 101	2 BIOL 104	1
COMM 104 (GEF 5)	3 CHEM 112	4
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 DTHY 100	1
HN&F 171 (GEF 8)	3 NBAN 107	4
Choose one of the following: (GEF 3)	3 PSYC 101 (GEF 4)	3
MATH 126A		
MATH 126B		
MATH 126C		

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Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
DTHY 185	2 DTHY 186	2 DTHY 226	1
DTHY 205	2 DTHY 211	1 PCOL 260 (Web)	3
DTHY 210	2 DTHY 220	2	
NBAN 207	4 DTHY 225	4	
MICB 200	3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3	
PSYC 241 (GEF 8)	3 SOCA 101 (GEF 8)	3	
	NBAN 309	2	

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Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
DTHY 350	2 DTHY 300	1 DTHY 491	4
DTHY 360	3 DTHY 351	3	
DTHY 363	1 DTHY 361	2	
DTHY 366	1 DTHY 364	2	
DTHY 370	2 DTHY 374	3	
DTHY 372	2 DTHY 378	2	
PATH 300	3 PATH 302	3	
GEF	3		

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Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
DTHY 402	1 DTHY 406	3
DTHY 405	4 DTHY 407	2
DTHY 440	1 DTHY 451	2
DTHY 445	1 DTHY 490	2
DTHY 450	2 or DTHY Elective	
DTHY 478	1 GEF	3
DTHY 495	2	

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Total credit hours: 132