

DENTAL HYGIENE

The Dental Hygiene program prepares students to become a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) in the licensed dental profession as part of the dental care team, performing such services as oral examination, oral prophylaxis (scaling, root planning, soft tissue curettage and polishing the teeth), exposing and processing dental x-rays, administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation for pain control, applying preventive substances such as topical fluorides and dental sealants along with instructing patients in oral disease control and nutrition.

The Dental Hygiene Associate in Science Degree Program offers an academic and clinical skills curriculum within an on-campus clinic. The student is prepared for eligibility to take the National Board written examination and the state practical examination for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Betsy Lindberg, blindbergh@vcccd.edu
(805) 986-5823

Faculty

Full-Time	Counselor
Betsy Lindberg, DDS, RDH	Ralph Smith
Richard Enriquez, DDS	

Part-Time	
Armine Dardarian, DDS	Glen Dewar, RDH
Joyce Galligan, DDS	Pam Hughes, RDH
Keith Johnson, DDS	Missy Mattox, RDH
Susan McDonald, RDH	Peggy Newville, RDH
Elaine Siebers	Jackie Waterman, RDH
Neil Ziegler	

◆ Dental Hygiene

Associate in Science Degree

Upon completion of the two-year degree program, graduates are eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Written Board and the California Dental Hygiene Clinical Licensing Board.

Program Recommendations	Units
MATH R011* Elementary Algebra	5
BIOL R101* General Biology	3
BIOL R101L* General Biology Lab	1
*or equivalent	
Program Prerequisite Courses	
MICR R100 Principles of Microbiology	3
MICR R100L Principles of Microbiology Lab	2
ANAT R100 General Human Anatomy	2
ANAT R100L General Human Anatomy Lab	2
PHSO R100 Human Physiology	3
PHSO R100L Human Physiology Lab	2
CHEM R110 Elementary Chemistry	5
CHEM R112 Elementary Organic and Biological Chemistry	5
ENGL R101 College Composition	4
PSY R101 General Psychology	3
SPCH R101 Introduction to Oral Communication	3
SOC R101 Introduction to Sociology	3

Total Prerequisites 37

The courses listed above are not necessarily entry-level. Oxnard College offers courses to prepare students to succeed in these prerequisites. See a counselor for more information.

PROGRAM ADMISSION

Upon completion of the prerequisites, students must apply for admission to the Dental Hygiene program. Contact the program director at 986-5823 for details on the selection process.

The program requires full-time enrollment.

Required Dental Hygiene Courses	Units
DH R010 Oral Biology	3
DH R011 Oral Radiology	3
DH R012 Head and Neck Anatomy	2
DH R013 Dental Health Education Seminar	1
DH R014 Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3
DH R015 Introduction to Pre-Clinic/Clinic	2
DH R020 Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide	2
DH R021 General and Oral Pathology	4
DH R022 Pharmacology	2
DH R023 Clinical Practice I	3
DH R024 Clinic I Seminar	3
DH R025 Periodontics I	2
DH R030 Special Patients/Geriatrics	1
DH R031 Nutrition in Dentistry	1
DH R032 Dental Materials	2
DH R033 Clinic II Seminar	2
DH R034 Clinical Practice II	4
DH R035 Periodontics II	2
DH R036 Community Oral Health I	2
DH R040 Advanced Clinical Topics	2
DH R041 Practice Management	1
DH R042 Clinic III Seminar	2
DH R043 Clinical Practice III	4
DH R044 Community Oral Health II	1
DH R045 Ethics and Jurisprudence	2

Total Dental Hygiene Required Courses 56

Dental Hygiene Courses

DH R010—Oral Biology 3 units

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

3 hours lecture, 1 hour lab weekly

Study of embryology and histology of oral structural formation, clinical recognition of normal oral structures, the physiological and structural functions of teeth and supporting tissues, and oral anatomy relative to proper dental hygiene procedures.

DH R011—Oral Radiology 3 units

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab weekly

Course teaches the fundamentals of radiation safety and the operation of dental radiology equipment, along with the clinical application of procedures involved in exposing, processing, mounting and interpreting dental roentgenograms.

DH R012—Head and Neck Anatomy 2 units

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture, 1 hour lab weekly

Course studies the anatomical structures of the head and neck regions and relates these structures to the clinical practice of Dental Hygiene.

DH R013—Dental Health Education Seminar 1 unit

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture weekly

Course teaches the principles and practices of prevention and control of dental disease with emphasis on nutrition, plaque control, motivation, and chairside patient education.

DH R014—Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice 3 units

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

3 hours lecture weekly

Introduction to all theoretical and didactic components of dental hygiene practice.

DH R015—Introduction to PreClinic/Clinic 2 units

Prerequisites: Completion of Program Prerequisites as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

6 hours lab weekly

Introduction to all clinical procedures and skills needed for dental hygiene practice. Materials fee is required.

DH R020—Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture, 3 hours lab weekly

A course to teach pharmacology, physiology, and proper use of local anesthetic agents. The course also teaches the anatomy of the trigeminal nerve, physiology of nerve conduction, how anesthesia works and prevention and management of emergencies.

DH R021—General and Oral Pathology 4 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

4 hours lecture weekly

Study of the pathological processes of inflammation, immunology defense, degeneration, neoplasm, developmental disorders, and healing and repair. Recognition of abnormalities in the human body with a special emphasis on normal and abnormal conditions in the oral cavity.

DH R022—Pharmacology 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

Classification and study of drugs according to origin, physical and chemical properties, therapeutic effect and values particularly of drugs used in dentistry.

DH R023—Clinical Practice I 3 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

9 hours lab weekly

Course provides beginning clinical experience in the treatment of adult and child patients. Various clinical procedures utilizing scaling and polishing techniques, extra-oral and intra-oral inspections, cancer screening, dental and periodontal charting, plaque control instructions and topical fluoride application will be put into supervised practice. Materials fee is required.

DH R024—Clinic I Seminar 3 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses.

3 hours lecture weekly

This course is designed to provide additional didactic material for clinical procedures which students apply in clinical situations. Information presented in previous clinic/patient treatment-related courses is reviewed. Clinical issues and cases are reviewed and discussed.

DH R025—Periodontics I 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

Course in periodontics teaching identification of the normal periodontium and recognition of deviations from normal; the etiology and principles of periodontal diseases, examination procedures, treatment and preventive measures.

DH R030—Special Patients/Geriatics 1 unit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture weekly

This course teaches characteristics and management of individual patients, motivation, and interpersonal communication. Treatment of the compromised patient and myofunctional therapy is presented.

DH R031—Nutrition in Dentistry 1 unit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture weekly

Course provides basic principles of nutrition and their relationship to dental health. Students perform dietary surveys on clinic patients and plan nutritional dietary programs.

DH R032—Dental Materials 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture, 3 hours lab weekly

Course teaches the composition and use of various materials used in dental procedures, and the fundamentals of chairside assisting while using dental materials. The concepts of the entire dental team in performing responsibilities in the care of oral dentition are covered.

DH R033—Clinic II Seminar 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

Course expands knowledge of comprehensive dental hygiene care through lectures and group discussions.

DH R034—Clinical Practice II 4 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

12 hours lab weekly

Course provides intermediate experience in the treatment of dental hygiene patients to expand on the procedures and techniques introduced in Introduction to Clinic and Clinical Practice I and provides additional experience on more difficult cases. Materials fee is required.

DH R035—Periodontics II 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

A course to enhance assessment skills applicable to the treatment of patients with advanced periodontal disease. Teaches the dental hygienist ethical and clinical responsibility in periodontal disorders and the relationship of the specialty practice of periodontics within the broad scope of dentistry and the legal ramifications thereof.

DH R036—Community Oral Health I 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

This course introduces students to the principles and practices of dental public health. The emphasis is placed on the role of the dental hygienist as an innovator of and educator in community health programs. Public health issues will be introduced and discussed.

DH R040—Advanced Clinical Topics 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture, 3 hours lab weekly

Course emphasizes advanced dental hygiene skills and procedures, state board patient selection, ways to minimize occupational hazards common to dental practice, and interactional skill development for the dental practice.

DH R041—Practice Management 1 unit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

1 hour lecture weekly

Course in office practice management; ethical and legal aspects of dentistry and dental hygiene, and business matters relating to dental hygiene practice.

DH R042—Clinic III Seminar 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

Course emphasizes advanced treatment planning and treatment of advanced periodontal patients. State Board review, application, and preparation will be emphasized also.

DH R043—Clinical Practice III 4 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

12 hours lab weekly

Course provides students with the opportunity to become more proficient in the clinical skills learned and practiced in previous clinical courses and prepares them for success on their state and national board examinations. Materials fee is required.

DH R044—Community Oral Health II 1 unit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

3 hours lab weekly

Laboratory practice in a community setting of the principles of dental public health as they relate to both children and adult populations.

DH R045—Ethics and Jurisprudence 2 units

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all third semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

2 hours lecture weekly

Study of the fundamental factors necessary to be employed and practiced within the ethical and legal framework of the state Dental Practice Act and the Code of Ethics of the American Dental Association.

DH R050—Clinical Practice IV 1 unit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all fourth semester Dental Hygiene Program courses, as stipulated by the American Dental Association.

8 hours lab for 6 weeks.

Provides clinical practice for students as they prepare to take the State Board Examination. Materials fee is required. Not applicable for degree credit. (1)

DH R051—Clinical Skills Review ½ unit

Prerequisites: Completion of the Dental Hygiene Program.

1½ hours lab weekly

This course will provide the opportunity for additional instruction in dental hygiene clinical skills and related studies. Field trips may be required. Not applicable for degree credit. Course may be taken four times. (1)

DH R098—Short Courses in Dental Hygiene ½-10 units

Lecture and/or lab hours as required by unit formula

Specialized topics designed to inform or update interested persons in various disciplines within the Dental Hygiene field. Length of course determines unit credit.

NOTE: The course listed below has been temporarily suspended. For further information, please contact the Math, Science, Health & Athletics division office.

DH 1 Pre-Dental Hygiene