

Dental Hygiene

Degree Awarded: Associate in Applied Science

Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association

211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 440-2500.

Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester	Credits
ENG 101 Freshman English 1	3
BIO 115 Human Biology	4
CHM 110 General and Biological Chemistry	3
DNT 101 Preventive Oral Health Services 1	5
DNT 103 Maxillofacial Anatomy and Oral Histology	4
Second Semester	
ENG 102 Freshman English 2	3
DNT 102 Preventive Oral Health Services 2	5
DNT 104 Dental Radiology	3
DNT 106 Oral Health Education	2
DNT 108 Pharmacology	2
MLT 106 Microbiology for Health Professionals	3
Summer Session 1	
DNT 110 Pain Management in Dentistry	2
Third Semester	
BIO 125 Nutrition	3
DNT 201 Preventive Oral Health Services III	5
DNT 203 Oral Pathology	2
DNT 205 Periodontology	2
DNT 207 Dental Bio-Materials and Advanced Functions	3
PES 100 Concepts of Physical Wellness	1
Fourth Semester	
COM 101 Foundations of Communication	3
PSY 101 General Psychology I	3
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology	3
DNT 202 Preventive Oral Health Services IV	5
DNT 206 Community Dental Health	2
PES ____ Physical Education	1

Total Credits: 72

Note: An additional requirement is current certification in CPR. "BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare Providers" is the recommended course (American Heart Association). Certification documentation must be submitted at the beginning of the second semester.

Program Description

The Associate in Applied Science degree program in Dental Hygiene prepares students for licensing by the State Board for Dentistry of New York to practice dental hygiene. Dental hygienists work under the supervision of a licensed dentist. They provide preventive, therapeutic and educational services within the parameters of the state law governing the practice of dental hygiene. In addition to traditional skills, these responsibilities include the administration of local infiltration anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation.

The curriculum is focused on the three professional Standards of Care: professionalism, health promotion and disease prevention, and patient care. Coursework includes requirements in English, social sciences, the sciences, and program-specific courses and laboratory experiences. In order to develop necessary skills, students first practice on peers. Then they actively participate in clinical dental hygiene experiences in the College dental hygiene clinic, as well as at off-campus sites including hospitals. Dental hygiene courses are offered once each year. Courses must be taken in the sequence in which they are offered without interruption. Dental hygiene courses cannot be taken on a part-time basis. A minimum grade of C (75%) is required in all dental hygiene courses. Program requirements for graduation also include the presentation of table clinics at off-campus locations, portfolio development and case-based clinical case presentations. Membership in the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association is mandatory.

Students who are considering this program must understand that they are required to provide their own transportation to these off-campus facilities and are required to purchase their own instruments and related supplies. They must also have a yearly physical examination and TB test. The Hepatitis B vaccine is strongly recommended. Students with disabilities should meet with the Coordinator of Special Services upon entering the program. Foreign students must have permanent residence status to obtain a dental hygiene license in New York State. An individual who has charges pending or has ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and/or has been found guilty of professional misconduct or negligence may not be eligible for licensure. Contact the Office of Professional Discipline, New York State Education Department prior to applying to this program. Finally, pregnant or potentially pregnant students should note that there is a risk associated with exposure to nitrous oxide gas. Students who are unwilling or unable to sit as patients should not apply to this program.

Admissions Criteria

Academic Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- Eligible to take or have completed Freshman English 1 or equivalent
- Eligible to take Intermediate Algebra or equivalent, or have completed Elementary Algebra or equivalent with a 2.0 or higher
- Completed high school AP Biology (score of 3, 4 or 5); Introduction to Biology; or General Biology; or Anatomy & Physiology 1, or higher, with a grade of 2.0 or better (within 5 years of applying)
- Completed high school Regents Chemistry with a grade of 75 or better; or a college Chemistry course (with a lab) with a grade of 2.0 or better (within 5 years of applying)
- GPA: students must attain a minimum GPA of 2.5 but will receive more points for a higher GPA (4.0 – 3.75 = 5 pts; 3.74 – 3.50 = 4 pts; 3.49 – 3.25 = 3 pts; 2.99 – 2.50 = 1 pt.)
- Number of acceptable credits completed towards the degree: (27 – 23 completed = 3 pts; 22 – 18 completed = 2 pts; 17 – 12 completed = 1 pt.; < 12 completed = 0 pts.)

Department Specific Requirements:

- Dental Hygiene observation (16 hour min. with documentation)
- Attendance at a Dental Hygiene department pre-admission orientation where students will receive and sign off on information pertaining to health forms and criminal policies

Note: All Dental Hygiene Admissions Eligibility Requirements must be completed before February 1 in order for a student to be considered for acceptance into the program for the fall semester. Priority in admission to all Health Professions programs goes to currently enrolled Orange County Community College students who are legal Orange County residents. Meeting the admission requirements for a Health Professions program does not guarantee admission into the program.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- discern and manage the ethical issues of dental hygiene practice in a rapidly changing environment.
- acquire and synthesize information in a critical, scientific and effective manner.
- be concerned with improving the knowledge, skills and values of the profession.
- provide planned educational services using appropriate interpersonal communication skills and educational strategies to promote optimal health.
- initiate and assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention activities for diverse populations.
- systematically collect, analyze and accurately record baseline data on the general, oral and psychosocial health status of the client using methods consistent with medicolegal principles.
- discuss the condition of the oral cavity, the actual and potential problems identified, the etiological and contributing factors, as well as recommended and alternative treatments available.
- provide treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic procedures to promote and maintain oral health and assist the client in achieving oral health goals.
- evaluate the effectiveness of planned clinical and educational services and modify them as necessary.

Career Opportunities

- private practice
- hospitals
- health service agencies
- overseas
- military

Transfer Opportunities

While the A.A.S. degree leads to immediate employment, SUNY Orange students have successfully transferred to:

- Manhattan College
- Northeastern University
- Pennsylvania College of Technology

Contact Information

Dental Hygiene
Department Chair
341-4306
Admissions Office
(845) 341-4030