

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Prospective Dental Hygiene  
Candidates Student Brochure**



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

## **Introduction**

(Per The American Dental Hygienists Association)

If you like helping people, enjoy working with your hands as well as your mind, and are interested in helping to prevent disease while assisting patients to maintain their oral health, a career as a dental hygienist may be for you.

Dental hygienists are important members of the dental health care team who work with dentists in the delivery of dental care to patients. Hygienists use their knowledge and clinical skills to provide dental hygiene care for patients. They use their interpersonal skills to motivate and instruct patients on methods to prevent oral disease and to maintain oral health.

Dental hygiene offers women and men of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds exceptional career opportunities. A minimum of two years of college education that combines classroom and clinical coursework is necessary to become a dental hygienist. This education prepares graduates to provide care to patients in dental offices, clinics and educational or health care institutions. Studying in an accredited program provides education that is based on the latest procedures and techniques.

Although there is no documented cases of occupational spread of HIV to dental workers, students enrolled in the dental hygiene program are at a slight risk for exposure to blood and body fluids. Therefore the potential does exist for transmission of blood borne and other infectious diseases during patient care activities. The risk of transmission of blood borne and infectious diseases from dental patients to members of the dental team is extremely low. Nevertheless, there is some small potential for this to occur. The American with Disabilities Act forbids the discrimination against patients with blood borne and/or infectious diseases. Therefore, students are required to treat all patients assigned regardless of the disease state of the patient. The Oakland Community College Dental Hygiene Program complies with all institutional, local, state and federal regulations on blood borne pathogens and infectious diseases, ionizing radiation and hazardous material.

The Oakland Community College Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association. Issues pertaining to compliance with the standards of the Commission of the ADA can be addressed to the:

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
211 E. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(800) 621-8099

A copy of the ADA Commission standards may be downloaded at:  
<http://ada.org/prof/ed/accred./index.asp>



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# OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE- DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM GOALS

## **Mission Statement**

Oakland Community College's Dental Hygiene program is dedicated to providing a student-centered learning environment focused on preparing students to succeed as competent licensed dental hygienists through the development of their psychomotor, cognitive and affective skills.

## **Program Goals**

### **Goal 1: *KNOWLEDGE***

To provide a student-centered learning environment through a curriculum that integrates general biomedical science, current dental hygiene theories and dental sciences.

### **Goal 2: *CLINICAL COMPETENCE***

To train students to become dental hygienists who provide quality patient-centered preventive and therapeutic care for patients through the dental hygiene standard of care which involves assessment, diagnosis, implementation and ongoing evaluation as reflected by the OCC Dental Hygiene Competencies for the Dental Hygienist.

### **Goal 3: *COMMUNICATION SKILLS***

To prepare students to become dental hygienists who competently communicate using interpersonal skills to interact with patients, patients' families and fellow members of the health care team to deliver optimal oral hygiene care

### **Goal 4: *PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS***

To prepare students to become dental hygienists who demonstrate competent professional behavior, critical thinking, and problem solving skills and adhere to the standard of care, legal and ethical principles of the dental hygiene profession.

### **Goal 5: *HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION***

To educate students to become dental hygienists who competently perform the six interrelated roles of the professional dental hygienist: administrator/manager, change agent, clinician, client advocate, educator/oral health promoter, and researcher.

### **Goal 6: *PROFESSIONAL GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT***

To help students develop into dental hygienists who realize the enrichment of lifelong learning on their professional growth that includes self-assessment and the ability to analyze the value of current research.

### **Goal 7: *EVIDENCE BASED DECISION-MAKING***

To prepare students to become dental hygienists who competently apply evidence-based decision making skills to the process of dental hygiene in order to improve the quality of patient care and recognize the role lifelong learning has in providing evidence-based oral hygiene care.



# OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE- DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM CLINICAL COMPETENCIES

To ensure the graduating students are prepared for all aspects of a career in clinical dental hygiene, the program faculty has developed seven competencies the students will develop as they progress through the program. The competencies were developed based on the current standards of the profession as revealed through evidence-based research.

## 1.1 **Assessment:**

The students will learn to systematically collect data from the patients treated.

This competency includes:

### *Health Assessment*

- development of patient rapport through the use of effective interviewing and communication skills
- obtain medical, dental, and social histories
- research the medications and their dental implications that patients report taking
- take the vitals of patients and evaluate them to establish patients' ASA
- maintain patients records as legal documents
- perform comprehensive examinations:
  - of the head and neck
  - intra- and extra oral tissues
  - oral cancer screening
  - determine patients need for referrals: medical and/or dental

### *Risk Assessment*

- completes a periodontal and dental charting
- takes radiographs: periapicals, panoramic, and /or digital
- digital imaging (intra oral photographs)
- periodontal and caries risk assessment indices
- identifies patients at risk for potential medical and /or dental emergencies
- takes measures to reduce the risk to patients for emergencies
- should an emergency arise, manages the patient and the emergency following the clinic and college's procedure

## 2.1 **Diagnosis:**

The students will use critical thinking to evaluate a patient's collected assessments, and the attending dentist's diagnosis to determine the patient's dental hygiene diagnosis.

This competency includes:

- using critical thinking to develop a dental hygiene care plan based on the collected assessments
- using the collected assessments to determine the patient's need for consultations and/or referrals prior to treatment
- collaborates with the attending dentist to obtain a dental diagnosis



### 3.1 Planning:

The students will use the results of their collected assessments, the attending dentist's diagnosis, and in collaboration with other health professionals as needed to develop a comprehensive patient-centered dental hygiene care plan that is evidence-based on current scientific research.

This competency includes:

- creates a formalized dental hygiene care plan that presents a care sequence based on the dental hygiene diagnosis, assessment data, and risk factors of the patient
- develops a dental hygiene care plan with the patient by prioritizing the care to be rendered based on the patient's health and socio-economic status
- establishes a collaborative relationship with the patient by delivering a case presentation that explains the dental and dental hygiene care plans, provides options, and alternatives
- seeks consultations and/or referrals prior to treatment if needed
- obtains the patient's informed consent or informed refusal prior to implementing the dental and dental hygiene care plans

### 4.1 Implementation:

The students will provide individualized treatment designed for the patients based on his/her assessments and diagnosis and may include periodontal debridement, therapeutic care, and patient education following established standards of care in a safe patient-centered environment.

This competency includes:

- the ability to determine the supportive care equipment needed to provide dental hygiene interventions including:
  - knowledge of equipment set-up and disinfection
  - aseptic techniques
  - maintenance following the standard of care for infection control and aseptic protocols
- use of the principles of hand or mechanized instrumentation for periodontal debridement and therapeutic care
- applies the five phases of the dental hygiene process of care (assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation) to patient care by considering the social and cultural needs of the patient when promoting the values of oral and general health through education, health promotion, and disease prevention strategies
- uses behavior modification and/or psychological techniques to manage patient comfort/pain and/or fear while providing safe patient care and accepted clinical techniques during dental hygiene interventions
- renders health promotion through dental health education, techniques and instructions for the use of oral physiotherapy aids
- provides supplemental dental hygiene services such as:
  - mouth guards
  - dietary analysis
  - smoking cessation
  - amalgam polishing
  - chemotherapeutic agents
  - bleach trays & bleach
  - sub-gingival irrigation
  - study models
- provides preventive services such as:
  - sealants
  - fluoride and fluoride varnish



## 5.1 Evaluation:

The students will evaluate their own performance in the delivery of safe, competent, preventive care for patients.

This competency includes:

- on-going evaluation of the performance of professional skills, knowledge and outcomes of the dental hygiene care rendered and makes modifications as needed
- application of evidence-based decision making through the use of scientific based technology and information systems to collect, process, analyze, and evaluate data
- on-going evaluation of the patient's ability to maintain an effective re-care program
- on-going evaluation of the patient's ability to reach and maintain determined oral health goals
- routinely evaluates the patient's satisfaction with the standard of care received in the dental hygiene clinic

## 6.1 Professional Growth and Development:

The students will make professional decisions to fulfill the legal responsibilities to the profession and will actively pursue professional development by using continuing education resources.

This competency includes:

- upholds the state and federal laws pertaining to dental hygiene
- assumes responsibility for the dental hygiene professional image by providing the accepted standard of care for patients and promoting patient wellness and quality of life
- provides community oral health services in a variety of settings through the use of effective communication and clinical skills
- advances the profession of dental hygiene through life-long learning and professional growth by service to the community and professional associations.

## 7.1 Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM)

The student will integrate the systematic assessment of clinical scientific evidence directly related to the patient's oral and medical condition and collaborates with the attending dentists and/or clinical instructors to meet the patients' treatment needs.

This competency includes:

- applies evidence-based decision making through the use of scientific
- based technology and information systems to collect, process, and analyze data
- makes clinical decisions about the care needed to meet the patient's treatment needs by using effective and efficient diagnosis
- applies educational competencies for evidence-based decision making in the process of rendering dental hygiene care
- uses Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcomes (PICO) questions to apply the following skills:
  - skill 1: Formulates PICO questions
  - skill 2: Conducts computerized search
  - skill 3: Critically appraises the evidence
  - skill 4: Applies the results to the patient
  - skill 5: Evaluates the process and self-evaluates performance

PICO questions and skill sets are taken from Evidence-Based Decision Making by Jane Forrest and Syrene Miller pg. 15



## **OCC Dental Hygiene Program adheres to the following competencies:**

- *American Dental Education Association Competencies:* Evaluate published clinic and basic science research and integrate this information to improve the oral health of the patient
- Accept responsibility for solving problems and making decisions based on accepted scientific principles
- ADA 2:17 Graduates must be competent in providing the dental hygiene process of care which includes: d.) provision of patient-centered treatment and evidence-based care in a manner minimizing risk and optimizing oral health.
- ADA 2:24 Graduates must be competent in the application of self-assessment skills to prepare them for lifelong learning. The intent is that dental hygienists should possess self-assessment skills as a foundation for maintaining competency and quality assurance.
- ADA 2:25 Graduates must be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature. The intent is that dental hygienists should have the ability to evaluate scientific literature as a foundation for lifelong learning and adaption to changes in healthcare.
- ADA 2:26 Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients. The intent is that critical thinking and decision making skills are necessary to provide effective and efficient dental hygiene services.

It is the desire of the faculty and staff at Oakland Community College to graduate competent professionals. The dental hygiene program is a quick-paced intensive study. The costs associated with becoming licensed are very expensive. According to Michigan State Law, a graduate can be denied licensure if there is a record of felony or a misdemeanor involving alcohol or a controlled substance including motor vehicle violations. Please speak with Mrs. Fox if this applies to you.





## Program Information

### A. Selection Information:

There are many more students interested in and eligible for the Dental Hygiene program than the Highland Lakes Campus can accommodate in any single year. Therefore, it is necessary that priorities be established for admission to DHY 1230, DHY 1240, and DHY 1250.

This memorandum and the College Catalog are the only official sources of information pertaining to the Dental Hygiene Selection Procedures. They apply **only** to those students who wish to enter the first Dental Hygiene courses. All students seeking information about the Dental Hygiene program should contact a counselor at any of the Oakland Community College Campuses.

If there are any incomplete (I's) on your record, they must be processed through the Office of the Academic Dean two (2) weeks prior to the close of the Fall Term. Candidates with any incompletes (I) on their records must have their records processed through the office of the Academic Dean two (2) weeks prior to the close of Fall Term.

### B. Selection Eligibility:

To be eligible for selection, all requirements and procedures for admission (outlined in student brochure and information sessions) must be completed by no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the student is intending to enroll in the dental hygiene program. Applicants will be notified in writing about the result no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Only students who have been accepted will receive a letter of acceptance.**

**Once accepted into the program you must attend a mandatory orientation designated by the program coordinator to ensure your acceptance for the fall semester.**

A student who wishes to be considered for acceptance in the program who has a lower grade point average than the determined average for that selection year should consider re-taking courses to improve their overall pre-requisite grade point average. Please notify the program coordinator in advance that you will be re-taking a course(s) so she may remain informed of your intentions. In addition it will be imperative that you have another final checklist completed to be considered for selection. This must be submitted prior to December 15<sup>th</sup> even if you have not completed the coursework.

Former OCC students who have not registered for classes for a three (3) year period must re-apply for admission and make certain they have a DHY curriculum designation. Students who have applied to the College but have not registered for any classes for one year must re-apply. Students graduating from another program and still interested in being considered for Dental Hygiene must re-establish the DHY designation by means of a Change of Data form at a campus Enrollment Service office.



### **C. Basic Admission Requirements include:**

- Accredited High school graduation or GED
- Attendance at a Dental Hygiene Information Session
- 15 hours of job shadowing with a Registered Dental Hygienist
- Records review with the Program Co-Coordinator
- Completion of each Required Supportive Courses with a 2.0 “C” or better: BIO-1570 or BIO-2710, BIO-2630, BIO- 2640, CHE-1320<sup>1</sup> COM-1600, ENG-1510, PER-2540, PSY-2510, SOC-2510
- Completion of a dental hygiene final checklist with a counselor at Highland Lakes when required supportive courses are completed.
- Have a DHY curriculum designation
- Have your official records at Highland Lakes Enrollment Services office. Have an accurate address on record
- Have an OCC transcript evaluation if you are a transfer student. Have obtained written approval for any course substitution
- At your appointment with a HL counselor be sure to bring a copy (can be unofficial) of any or all course(s) taken with letter grade(s) from other colleges or universities, this must be attached to your final checklist
  - If you have not completed all of your pre-requisite courses and would like an “unofficial” final checklist to be completed with a counselor, this may be done at any time with an appointment.
  - Due to the competitive nature of the selection process, the top 30 students with the highest GPA in the 9 supportive required courses will be selected.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These courses must be taken within a five-year period which dates from the session during which the course was taken and closes at the session during which the student begins DHY 1230. IF more than five years elapse, you must successfully complete a science review course offered by the Dental Hygiene program prior to enrollment into the program

<sup>2</sup> Over the last five years, selection GPA has an average of 3.5 and/or higher.

Notes: COM 1290, Interpersonal Communications, will not be accepted as a course substitute for COM 1600. No Course Substitution necessary for BIO 2710.



#### **D. Other Program/College Requirements & Information**

1. The nutrition course HEA 1510 may be taken in the first year of the dental hygiene program, however it is recommended that this course is completed prior to acceptance as it is a pre-requisite prior to registration for the fourth term DHY 1283.
2. All transfer students must complete the last 15 credit hours at OCC.
3. In addition to the credits required by the dental hygiene program, the college requires 3 credit hours of humanities (HUM) for the Associate in Applied Science Degree:
4. Prior to entry into the dental hygiene program and in addition to tuition, dental hygiene students incur extra costs such as pre-admission health examinations, uniforms, supplies, instrument kit, ADHA affiliation, licensure application fees and costs, and pinning ceremony expenses.
5. A placement test is now REQUIRED for any student registering for BIO 1570 and BIO 2630.
6. BIO 2710 or BIO 1570 is accepted.

The dental hygiene website that contains pertinent information can be found by clicking here: [www.oaklandcc.edu/health/dental-hygiene/](http://www.oaklandcc.edu/health/dental-hygiene/)



## **E. Dental Hygiene Curriculum:**

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinic
<u>Prior to Dental Hygiene courses:</u>					
**BIO 1570	Microbiology of Health & Disease	3	3	0	0
Or BIO 2710					
**BIO 2630	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4	4	2	0
**BIO 2640	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4	4	2	0
**CHE 1320	Survey of Organic & Biochemistry	4	4	2	0
**ENG 1510	Composition I	3	3	0	0
**PER 2540	First Aid & Emergency Services	4	4	0	0
**PSY 2510	Introduction to Psychology	3	3	0	0
**SOC 2510	Introduction to Sociology	3	3	0	0
**COM 1600	Fundamentals of Speech	3	3	0	0
		31	31	6	0
<u>First Term: Fall</u>					
DHY 1230	Dental Anatomy	3	2	2	0
DHY 1240	Dental Histology & Embryology	3	2	2	0
DHY 1250	Clinical Techniques	5	2	0	6
DHY 1140	Dental Office Procedures	3	3	0	0
		14	9	4	6
<u>Second Term: Winter</u>					
**HEA 1510	Nutrition (If not previously taken)	3	3	0	0
DHY 1260	Dental Radiography	3.5	2	3	0
DHY 2210	Oral Pathology	3	3	0	0
DHY1281	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	4	1	0	9
DHY 1310	Periodontics	2	2	0	0
		15.5	11	3	9
<u>Third Term: Spring</u>					
DHY 2250	Dental Materials	3	4	3	0
DHY 1282	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	2.5	1	0	11
DHY 1350	Local Anesthesia	1.5	.5	.5	0
		7	5.5	3.5	11
<u>Fourth Term: Fall</u>					
DHY 1330	Dental Therapeutics	2	2	0	0
DHY 2280	Dental Health Education	2	2	0	0
DHY 1283	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5	1	0	12+
		9	5	0	12+ rotations
<u>Fifth Term: Winter</u>					
DHY 2240	Dental Specialties	2	2	0	0
DHY 2220	Public Health Dentistry	1	1.5	0	0
DHY 2320	Dental Law	1	1	0	0
DHY 1284	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5	1	0	12+
		9	5.5	0	12+ rotations
<u>Other College Requirements</u>					
HUM XXX	Humanities	3	3	0	0
		3	4	0	0

TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS 88.5  
 TRANSFERABLE CREDIT HOURS 34+

\*\* Denotes college transfer



## **F. Terms and Conditions:**

What education does a Dental Hygienist need? (per The American Dental Hygienists Association)

Dental hygienists receive their education through academic programs at community colleges, technical colleges, dental schools or universities. The majority of community college programs take at least two years to complete, with graduates receiving associate degrees. Receipt of this degree allows a hygienist to take licensure examinations (national and state or regional), become licensed and to work in a dental office. University-based dental hygiene programs may offer baccalaureate and master's degrees, which generally require at least two years of further schooling. These additional degrees may be required to embark on a career in teaching and/or research, as well as for clinical practice in school or public health programs. Dental hygiene program admission requirements vary, depending upon the specific school. High school-level courses such as health, biology, psychology, chemistry, mathematics and speech will be beneficial in a dental hygiene career. Most programs show a preference for individuals who have completed at least one year of college. Some baccalaureate degree programs require that applicants complete two years of college prior to enrollment in the dental hygiene program. Counselors, advisors and prospective students should contact the particular dental hygiene program of interest for specific program requirements.

The Dental Hygiene program at OCC is a very fast paced and demanding program. To be successful prospective students must be willing and able to devote at least two hours per week for each credit hour of class for which you are enrolled. For example, 12 credit hours will require 24 hours of study per week. The OCC Dental Hygiene program is designed to require students to pass BOTH the Theory and Lab portions of the Dental Hygiene course. You must pass DHY 1250 Theory with 75% or better and the DHY 1250 Lab component with 75% or better. First year first semester students must pass DHY 1250 Clinical Techniques and DHY 1230 Dental Anatomy with 75% or better to register for the following semester.



**G. Program Cost**

<b>DENTAL HYGIENE</b>									
	In District Rates					Out of District Rates			
			Billable				Billable		
		Contact	Contact			Contact	Contact		
	Credits	Hours	Hours	Tuition		Credits	Hours	Hours	Tuition
<b><u>First Term: Fall</u></b>									
DHY 1230	3	4	4	\$352.00		3	4	4	\$684.00
DHY 1240	3	4	4	\$352.00		3	4	4	\$684.00
DHY 1250	5	8	8	\$704.00		5	8	8	\$1,368.00
DHY 1140	3	3	3	\$264.00		3	3	3	\$513.00
Tuition				\$1,672.00					\$3,249.00
Student Support Fee				\$100.00					\$100.00
<b>Total for the First Term - Fall</b>									
				<b>\$1,772.00</b>					<b>\$3,349.00</b>
<b><u>Second Term: Winter</u></b>									
DHY 1260	3.5	5	5	\$440.00		3.5	5	5	\$855.00
DHY 2210	3	3	3	\$264.00		3	3	3	\$513.00
DHY 1281	4	10	7	\$616.00		4	10	7	\$1,197.00
DHY 1310	2	2	2	\$176.00		2	2	2	\$342.00
Tuition				\$1,496.00					\$2,907.00
Student Support Fee				\$100.00					\$100.00
<b>Total for the Second Term-Winter</b>									
				<b>\$1,596.00</b>					<b>\$3,007.00</b>
<b><u>Third Term: Spring</u></b>									
DHY 2250	3	6	6	\$528.00		3	6	6	\$1,026.00
DHY 1282	2.5	12	5.5	\$484.00		2.5	12	5.5	\$940.50
DHY 1350	1.5	2	2	\$176.00		1.5	2	2	\$342.00
Tuition				\$1,188.00					\$2,308.50
Student Support Fee				\$100.00					\$100.00
<b>Total for the Third Term – Spring</b>									
				<b>\$1,288.00</b>					<b>\$2,408.50</b>



**Program Cost (continued)**

	In District Rates				Out of District Rates			
	Credits	Contact		Billable Tuition	Credits	Contact		Billable Tuition
		Hours	Hours			Hours	Hours	
<b>Fourth Term: Fall</b>								
DHY 1330	2	2	2	\$176.00	2	2	2	\$342.00
DHY 2280	2	2	2	\$176.00	2	2	2	\$342.00
DHY 1283	5	13	8	\$704.00	5	13	8	\$1,368.00
Tuition				\$1,056.00				\$2,052.00
Student Support Fee				\$100.00				\$100.00
<b>Total for the Fourth Term – Fall</b>				<b>\$1,156.00</b>				<b>\$2,152.00</b>
<b>Fifth Term: Winter</b>								
DHY 2240	2	2	2	\$176.00	2	2	2	\$342.00
DHY 2220	1	1	1	\$88.00	1	1	1	\$171.00
DHY 2320	1	1	1	\$88.00	1	1	1	\$171.00
DHY 1284	5	13	8	\$704.00	5	13	8	\$1,368.00
Tuition				\$1,056.00				\$2,052.00
Student Support Fee				\$100.00				\$100.00
<b>Total for the Fifth Term – Winter</b>				<b>\$1,156.00</b>				<b>\$2,152.00</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COST</b>				<b>\$6,968.00</b>				<b>\$13,068.50</b>
***THE COLLEGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, PROGRAMS AND FEES WITHOUT NOTICE.								
THE FEES LISTED IN THIS SCHEDULE ARE BASED ON THE 2016-2017 YEAR.								
<b><u>Tuition fees are as follows:</u></b>								
In-District Rate per credit hour:				\$88.00				
Out-of-District Rate per credit hour:				\$171.00				



## H. Approximate Extraneous Program Costs:

Additional costs above and beyond tuition, books and licensure include:

- Instrument Kit approx \$1,400.00
- Bookstore: scrubs/lab coat approx \$150.00
- Hand piece approx \$450.00-\$500.00
- Sharpening stone approx \$60.00
- Ultrasonic inserts approx \$400.00-\$500.00
- ADHA membership\*\* (student component) approx \$65.00/year
- Malpractice Insurance approx \$50.00/year

### Licensure Exams: 2017 Costs

- National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE) = \$410.00
- CDCA (State Clinical Exam) = \$975.00
- Anesthesia = \$140.00
- Nitrous Oxide = \$135.00

\*\* This includes mandatory attendance at the annual conference in November (required for first and second year dental hygiene students)





**NOTES:**



## What does a Dental Hygienist do?

A dental hygienist assesses, diagnoses, plans, implements, evaluates, and documents treatment for prevention, intervention, and control of oral diseases, while practicing in collaboration with other health professionals in a variety of work settings.

### Types of Dental Hygiene Careers: (per *The American Dental Hygiene Association*)

- Private dental practice clinicians
- Hospital/Community clinic clinicians
- College/University clinical instructors/educators
- College/University Program Directors
- Educators in Corporate/Government/Non-Profits
- Clinical/Educator in Prison facilities
- Clinician/Educator in Nursing/Long care facilities
- Clinician/Educator in Schools
- State Public Health Officer
- Community Clinic Administrator
- Dental Researcher in Corporate or Academia
- Clinician/Educator/Administrator in Indian Health Service
- Clinician/Educator/Administrator In Head Start programs
- Clinician/Educator/Administrator of local health departments
- Clinician/Educator/Administrator National Health Service Corps
- School sealant program clinician
- Independent Clinical Practice Owner
- Professional Speaker/Writer
- Sales person for Product Development/Practice Management Company
- Trainer/Educator for Employment/Consulting Services
- Advocate/Educator for CE provider or Meeting Planner
- Administrator/Founder of Nonprofit
- PA 161 or Collaborative Practice clinician

#### Clinician

- Perform oral health assessments
- Provide nutritional counseling and self-care programs to prevent disease
- Examine head, neck, and oral regions for disease
- Take and process radiographs and perform other diagnostic tests
- Provide services that help patients prevent gum diseases and cavities; for example: remove deposits from teeth and apply sealants and fluoride to prevent decay



- Perform oral cancer and blood pressure screenings
- Provide oral health instructions and interventions
- Place and remove temporary fillings and periodontal dressings
- Remove sutures
- Administrate local anesthesia and nitrous oxide gas
- Use of digital imaging and practice software

**Note:** In some states, with additional education, a dental hygienist may also provide other services such as administering local anesthetics and nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia, placing and carving of filling materials, and additional periodontal procedures.

#### Administrator/Manager

- Consult for dental product companies and/or insurance companies
- Hold administrative positions in education, public health, hospitals, or professional associations
- Sell dental products and supplies
- Manage or own dental personnel placement services
- Evaluate and facilitate processing of dental insurance claims
- Initiate and evaluate community dental health programs and resources

#### Educator

- Teach in dental hygiene and dental school programs
- Present continuing education seminars
- Write/edit educational materials
- Act as educational consultants to dental companies

#### Researcher

- Write grant proposals
- Develop research methodology
- Collect and analyze data
- Conduct clinical research
- Conduct research surveys
- Write articles and scientific papers for professional publications

#### Consumer Advocate

- Help consumer groups obtain access to care
- Develop networking systems to match existing resources with health care needs
- Advise consumers on insurance policies, commercial products, and political issues affecting oral health

#### Change Agent

- Influence business and government agencies to support health care efforts
- Advocate oral health programs for individuals, families, or communities
- Act as lobbyist
- Can be law consultants (malpractice review, expert witness)



## Public Health Dental Hygiene

Public health is growing new field. Dental hygienists can pursue graduate public health education at both schools of public health and dental schools. The competency objectives for public health dental hygienists are:

- Health policy and program administration
  - Research methods in dental public health
  - Oral health promotion and disease prevention
  - Oral health services delivery systems
- New Dental Hygiene Positions (Additional education needed)
- PA 161
  - Mobile dentistry
  - Collaborative practices
  - Mid-level provider

Where do public health hygienists work?

- Private practices
- Corporate/Group Practices
- Government Health Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Hospitals/Community Clinics
- College/Universities
- Practice management/Employment Services
- Corporate Product and Sales Company
- Federal Government facilities (VA, ASTDD, Health Departments)

### Salary Ranges

Approximately \$25.00 - \$40.00 hourly

### Benefits – Negotiable

- Paid continuing education credits
- Paid uniform allowance
- Profit sharing
- Health benefits
- Production bonuses
- Holiday/Vacation pay



## License Regulations:

Dental hygienists are licensed by each state to provide dental hygiene care and patient education.

Almost all states require that dental hygienists be graduates of Commission-accredited dental hygiene education programs to be eligible for state licensure. Additionally, almost all states require candidates for licensure to obtain a passing score on the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (a comprehensive written examination) in addition to passing the regional clinical examination. The American Board of Dental Examiners Dental Hygiene Examinations (ADEX) tests candidates' clinical dental hygiene and related subjects. Upon receipt of their license, dental hygienists may use "R.D.H." after their names to signify recognition by the state that they are a Registered Dental Hygienist.

The ADEX examination is accepted in 43 states. States NOT included are Alaska, California, Delaware, Georgia, Minnesota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Washington.

A licensed dental hygienist must complete continuing education credits every 3 years, see ADHA organization for specifics.

From the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs:

**"Please be advised that effective immediately, all individuals applying for a health professional license or registration in the State of Michigan are required to undergo a criminal background check and submit fingerprints. The requirement for this procedure is pursuant to Public Act 26 of 2006."**

Affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



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