

Dental Hygiene

Dental hygiene involves the use of a process of care to assess oral health status, develop a dental hygiene diagnosis, and plan and implement preventive and therapeutic services to achieve optimum oral health. This process of care is utilized to support the oral health status of individuals in a variety of clinical settings, and groups in community education and health care settings.

Dental hygiene has evolved into a multifaceted profession offering opportunities in a variety of areas. Career opportunities for the licensed dental hygienist are available in dental clinics and practices, administrative and managerial health care, education, research, and public health. The dental hygiene program at the University of Southern Indiana provides a curriculum which includes didactic courses, laboratory and clinical experiences, and community oral health education experiences. This diversity prepares graduates to deliver oral health care services and education in a variety of practice settings.

The Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene requires two years of prerequisite courses and two academic years of professional education courses.

Prerequisite courses may be taken at any accredited college or university. Courses completed at another university must be comparable to those offered by USI and must transfer for credit. Dental hygiene courses taken while enrolled in the University of Southern Indiana dental assisting program must be completed within three years of entering the dental hygiene program. A grade of C or better is required in all courses to be applied to the dental hygiene degree. An overall grade point average of 2.5 is required for graduation from the program.

Prerequisite courses cannot be taken on pass/fail option. All chemistry, biology, health professions, nutrition, and math prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the spring semester in the year the student desires admission to the program. The remainder of the prerequisite courses must be completed prior to beginning the dental hygiene professional curriculum.

Students seeking admission to the dental hygiene program must also be accepted for admission to USI. Admission to the University and completion of the prerequisite courses does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program. Admission into the dental hygiene program is limited to 24 students each academic

year. Students are accepted into the dental hygiene program based on the cumulative grade point average in the required prerequisite courses. Twenty-four students with the highest grade point average in the required prerequisite courses are offered admission into the program each year. Applicants meeting academic requirements must also be in good health, be eligible for dental hygiene licensure, and capable of fulfilling clinical practice requirements.

Application materials for the dental hygiene program are available in the College of Nursing and Health Professions office and on the program's Web site. The completed application must be submitted to the dental hygiene program by February 1 of the year the student desires admission to the program. Applications received after February 1 will be considered on a space available basis.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements include the following:

- Acceptance to the University of Southern Indiana;
- completion of the required prerequisite college courses with a grade of "C" or higher and minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 (4.0 scale);
- submission of a dental hygiene application ;
- submission of official university transcripts to the dental hygiene program (USI transcripts do not need to be submitted);
- submission of medical and immunization records;
- CPR certification for health care providers;
- completion of a criminal background check; and
- completion of drug testing.

Prerequisite Courses

CMST101 Introduction to Public Speaking	3
ENG 101 Rhetoric and Composition I	3
ENG 201 Rhetoric and Composition II	3
Math 111	4
The Arts	3
PE	1
NUTR 376 Principles and Applications in Nutrition	3
History	3
PSY 201 Introduction to Psychology	3
SOC 121 Principles of Sociology	3
CHEM 141 Principles of Chemistry	4
BIOL 121 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIOL 122 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
Humanities	3
Humanities	3
Global Communities	3
HP 115 Medical Terminology for the Health Professions	2
HP 325 Pharmacology	3
BIOL 272 Medical Microbiology	3
HP 302 Biostatistics	3
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The dental hygiene program at the University of Southern Indiana is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. The address of the Commission on Dental Accreditation is American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-2678, phone 800/621-8099.

Sample Dental Hygiene Curriculum

First Year

First Semester		
ENG 101	Rhetoric & Composition I	3
CMST 101	Intro to Public Speaking	3
PSY 201	Intro to Psychology	3
MATH 111	College Algebra	4
PE		1
		14
Second Semester		
ENG 201	Rhetoric & Composition II	3
CHEM 141	Principles of Chemistry	4
SOC 121	Principles of Sociology	3
Humanities		3
The Arts		3
		16

Second Year

First Semester		
BIOL 121	Anatomy and Physiology I	3
Humanities		3
HP 115	Medical Terminology	2
NUTR 376	Nutrition	3
Global Communities		3
		14
Second Semester		
BIOL 122	Anatomy and Physiology II	3
HP 325	Pharmacology	3
BIOL 272	Medical Microbiology	3
HP 302	Biostatistics	3
History		3
		15

Third Year

First Semester		
DTHY 341	Dental Hygiene Theory I	4
DTHY 342	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	3
DTHY 303	Oral Radiology	3
DTHY 314	Oral Anatomy	2
DTHY 308	Applied Dental Materials	3
DTHY 316	Preventive Oral Health I	2
		17
Second Semester		
DTHY 351	Dental Hygiene Theory II	4
DTHY 352	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	3
DTHY 318	Preventive Oral Health II	3
DTHY 322	Periodontology	2
DTHY 313	Anatomy of the Head and Neck	2
DTHY 315	Oral Embryology and Histology	1
DTHY 323	Pain Management in Dentistry	1
		16

Fourth Year

First Semester		
DTHY 441	Dental Hygiene Theory III	4
DTHY 442	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	5
DTHY 405	General and Oral Pathology	4
DTHY 411	Community Oral Health Theory	1
DTHY 422	Clinical Application of Periodontology	1
HA 356	Ethics and Health Care	3
		18

Second Semester		
DTHY 451	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	4
DTHY 452	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	5
DTHY 412	Community Oral Health Practicum	2
DTHY 457	Professional and Current Issues in Oral Health Care	3
		14

TOTAL HOURS 124

Degree Completion Option for Associate Degree Dental Hygienists

A bachelor's degree in dental hygiene is available to dental hygienists who have earned an associate degree in dental hygiene. Applicants for this degree will be considered on the basis of a review of the individual's records and transcripts. A maximum of 64 credit hours can be transferred from a community college. The applicant must hold a current license to practice dental hygiene from any U.S. state, be certified in CPR for health care providers, submit medical and immunization records, and complete a criminal background check and drug testing.

Following are course requirements for the bachelor's degree completion option:

- Completion of the University Core Curriculum;
- Completion of an associate degree in dental hygiene; and
- Completion of

HP 302	Biostatistics
HA 411	Health Care Leadership
DTHY 401	Clinical Management I
DTHY 402	Clinical Management II
DTHY 457	Professional and Current Issues in Oral Health Care

TOTAL MINIMUM CREDIT HOURS 124

Course Descriptions

Following certain course descriptions are the designations: F, Sp, Su. These indicate the semesters fall, spring, summer in which the course is normally offered and are intended as an aid to students planning their programs of study.

A complete listing of dental hygiene course descriptions is available on the Web at www.health.usi.edu.

303 Oral Radiology (3) This course includes principles of radiation physics, exposing, processing, mounting, evaluating, and interpreting dental radiographs. Biological effects of radiation and protective principles, quality assurance protocols, and infection control are emphasized. Emerging imaging technology is addressed. Two hours lecture, two hours laboratory. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting Program. F

308 Applied Dental Materials (3) This course focuses on the study of the physical, chemical, and biologic properties and uses of dental materials. Identification and manipulation of common dental materials are incorporated in laboratory experiences. Two hours lecture, two hours laboratory. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting Program. F

314 Oral Anatomy (2) This course provides the student with a detailed study of the anatomy of the oral cavity and underlying structures. The eruption, arrangement, function, developmental disturbances, occlusion and morphological characteristics of both the permanent and deciduous dentitions is presented. Two hours lecture. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting Program. F

316 Preventive Oral Health I (2) This course emphasizes prevention of dental and periodontal diseases through mechanical dental plaque control, fluoride therapy, pit and fissure sealants, dietary control, and basic principles of client education. The effects of tobacco use on oral health are included. Tobacco cessation strategies and their use in oral health education are presented. Two hours lecture. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program. F

341 Dental Hygiene Theory I (4) This course introduces the theory of the dental hygiene process of care, including assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Emphasis is on providing the student with an ethical and scientific foundation to use in applying appropriate infection control procedures, introductory client assessment procedures, and basic instrumentation skills. The use of the dental hygiene diagnosis in developing a care plan is introduced. Current clinical issues are addressed in a one-hour weekly seminar. Three hours lecture. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program. F

342 Dental Hygiene Clinic I (3) This pre-clinical laboratory experience course presents practicum covering the fundamentals of medical emergencies, infection control procedures, assessment of the dental hygiene client, development of a dental hygiene diagnosis, instrumentation skills, equipment use and maintenance, and basic oral health education. Eight hours laboratory. Prereq: Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program. F

Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Food and Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition degree is designed to prepare graduates for entry into community food and nutrition-related careers including health care, business, and industry. The major provides a broad coverage of the interpersonal, conceptual, analytical, and application skills necessary to perform in the food and nutrition-related field. Three specialty tracks are available: dietetics, nutrition and wellness, or food service management. A minor in nutrition is also offered.

Dietetics specialty

Dietetics is the science of managing food and nutrition to promote health. Students choosing this specialty will examine nutrition and its application to food and health. Students choosing this track need to be aware of information concerning approval or accreditation of the specialty by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education (CADE). To become a registered dietitian