

Dental Hygiene

This program is offered at **Rancho Cucamonga** and **Visalia**.

Program Description

This 65 school week program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Graduating from an accredited program allows students to be eligible to sit for the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and the California State Dental Hygiene Board Clinical Examination. Upon successful completion of these examinations, the student will be given California licensure to practice dental hygiene.

The Dental Hygiene Program offers a curriculum that provides students the appropriate academic and clinical skills instruction to be eligible to take the National Board written examination and the State Board Examination for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist in California. Upon completion of the Dental Hygiene Program and the general education requirements, the graduate will be eligible for an Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

Drug and alcohol testing, criminal history background checks, health screenings and immunizations may all be conditions of acceptance for clinical and extern education in a medical setting. Student will be required to complete all health screening and immunization requirements of extern site prior to beginning externship hours. The College will pay for the cost of required screenings and immunizations.



Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Identify each patient's physical and oral health status by collecting patient data through a process of comprehensive patient assessment procedures.
2. Analyze assessment findings and use critical thinking in order to address the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs.
3. Establish a dental hygiene care plan that reflects the realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.
4. Provide patient-centered treatment and evidence-based care in a manner minimizing risk and optimizing oral health.
5. Measure the extent to which goals identified in the dental hygiene care plan are achieved.
6. Complete and accurately record all documentation relevant to patient care.
7. Adapt to changes in demographics and cultural diversity in dental hygiene practice and health care delivery.
8. Interact with the dental community and professional organizations for professional growth and lifelong learning.

Prerequisites

The following courses must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum of a "C" grade and an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher:¹²

- General/Inorganic Chemistry (with lab)
- General Microbiology (with lab)
- Human Physiology (with lab)
- Speech / Oral Communication
- Introduction to Sociology
- Organic/Biochemistry (with lab)
- Human Anatomy (with lab)
- Writing and Composition
- Intermediate Algebra or higher
- General Psychology

Students meeting all of the program prerequisites and minimum requirements will be selected using points earned from the following criteria: GPA on all prerequisite courses, a reading comprehension exam, allied health or related work experience, and a personal interview.

The following courses are required to obtain a degree in this field.

Course ID	Course Name	Credit Units
DH 4	Periodontics 2	3.0

¹² The College will offer microbiology (BIOL14) and organic chemistry (CHE 4) courses to students who meet all other program admission requirements.

DH 10	Oral Biology	3.0
DH 11	Oral Radiology	2.0
DH 12	Head and Neck Anatomy	3.0
DH 13	Dental Health Education	2.0
DH 14	Introduction to Clinic	2.0
DH 20	Local Anesthesia Lecture	1.0
DH 21	General and Oral Pathology	4.0
DH 22	Patient Management and Geriatrics	2.0
DH 24	Clinic Seminar 1	1.0
DH 26	Community Oral Health	2.0
DH 30	Periodontics 1	3.0
DH 31	Pharmacology	3.0
DH 32	Dental Materials	2.0
DH 33	Clinic Seminar 2 Advanced Clinical Topics	1.0
DH 42	Clinical Seminar 3	2.0
DH 45	Nutrition	2.0
DH 46	Legal and Ethical Responsibilities	2.0
DH 110	Oral Biology Lab	NC
DH 111	Oral Radiology Lab	1.0
DH 112	Head and Neck Anatomy Lab	NC
DH 114	Introduction to Clinic Lab	2.0
DH 120	Local Anesthesia Lab	1.0
DH 123	Clinical Practice 1	3.0
DH 124	Clinic Seminar 1 Lab	1.0
DH 132	Dental Materials Lab	1.0
DH 133	Clinic Seminar 2 Advanced Clinical Topics Lab	1.0
DH 134	Clinical Practice 2	4.0
DH 143	Clinical Practice 3	5.0
DH 399	Dental Hygiene Review Seminar 1	NC
DH 499*	Dental Hygiene Review Seminar 2	1.0
DH 601**	Dental Hygiene Review*	NC
DH 602**	Dental Hygiene Clinical Experience*	NC
A.S. Degree Program Total		60.0

*This course satisfies the CSS100 graduation requirements.

** *These courses not required for obtaining an A.S. degree in dental hygiene. Please see course descriptions in Section 8 for additional information.*

For a description of the courses listed above, please see Section 8.

Program Graduation Requirements:

Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all DH course and meet the minimum requirement of the HIPAA component in order to graduate from the program.