

# D H 320A: CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE I

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
<b>Effective Term:</b>	Summer 2025
<b>Units:</b>	2
<b>Hours:</b>	4 lecture, 80 laboratory per quarter (84 total per quarter) This is a 4 week course - 1 hour lecture, 20 hours clinical laboratory per week.
<b>Advisory:</b>	Not open to students with credit in D H 62A.
<b>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</b>	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
<b>Foothill GE:</b>	Non-GE
<b>Transferable:</b>	CSU
<b>Grade Type:</b>	Letter Grade Only
<b>Repeatability:</b>	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- The student will evaluate assessment findings and prepare a patient competency project, including clinical dental hygiene treatment and scientific evidence-based research on the child or adolescent patient with a score of at least 75% on the grading rubric.
- The student will analyze periodontal assessment data and complete a probing evaluation with a score of at least 75%.

## Description

This course is a continuation of dental hygiene clinical practice, with an emphasis on assessments, planning, and implementation of comprehensive dental hygiene care for diverse patient populations including those with special needs. Students apply knowledge, critical thinking, and clinical skills acquired in previously completed dental hygiene theory and clinical courses. Progress of development in clinical performance will be evaluated with each successive academic period. Intended for students in the Dental Hygiene Baccalaureate Degree Program; enrollment is limited to students accepted in the program.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Collect and analyze dental hygiene assessment data on diverse patient populations in the clinical setting.
- Develop patient-centered dental hygiene treatment plans that ensure patients' individual needs are understood and respected.
- Implement compassionate, evidence-based dental hygiene care for diverse patient populations in the clinical setting.
- Evaluate dental hygiene treatment outcomes for patients in the clinical setting and make appropriate recommendations for continuing care.
- Develop patient-centered oral health education plans based on assessment data and patient values.

- Demonstrate infection control and hazardous waste management practices that are in compliance with Minimum Standards and OSHA regulations.
- Apply the legal and ethical principles of dental hygiene practice to the delivery of patient care in the clinical setting.
- Apply constructive feedback to develop self-assessment skills that lead to clinical competency.

## Course Content

- Dental hygiene assessment data (Lec and Lab)
  - Assessment data
    - Relevant medical and dental information
    - Extraoral and intraoral examination findings
    - Periodontal examination
    - Caries examination and dental charting
    - Risk assessments
      - Periodontal risk using evidence-based applications, radiographs, periodontal examination, bacterial testing, and patient interview
      - Caries risk using evidence-based applications, radiographs, caries examination findings, patient interview, and saliva testing
      - Oral cancer risk using evidence-based applications, extra/intraoral examination findings, and patient interview
    - Dietary information
    - Current oral hygiene habits
  - Consultation with medical/dental professionals
- Dental hygiene treatment planning (Lec and Lab)
  - Treatment recommendations based on the patient's individual needs and values
  - Comprehensive dental hygiene treatment plans
    - Individualized goals and treatment outcomes
    - Oral hygiene instructions
    - Dental hygiene care by appointment
  - Faculty consultation
    - Appropriate medical/dental referrals
    - Development of professional communication skills
- Dental hygiene treatment procedures (Lec and Lab)
  - Preventive and therapeutic dental hygiene procedures
    - Complete removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque biofilm, stains, and the smoothing of unattached surfaces
      - Non-surgical periodontal therapy
      - Gingival scaling
      - Periodontal maintenance
      - Prophylaxis
    - Pain control procedures
      - Topical anesthesia
  - Adjunctive dental hygiene procedures
    - Selective coronal polishing
    - Dentinal desensitization treatments
    - Pit and fissure sealants
    - Topical fluoride treatments
  - Post-operative instructions
  - Instrument care and maintenance
    - Sharpening techniques
  - Emergency management

- f. Rotation duties
  - i. Screener
  - ii. Radiology lab
- g. Time management strategies
- 4. Evaluation of dental hygiene treatment (Lec and Lab)
  - a. Evaluation of healing following treatment
    - i. Identification of clinical parameters to assess healing
  - b. Re-evaluation appointments
  - c. Recare intervals
  - d. Dental referrals
- 5. Oral health education strategies (Lec and Lab)
  - a. Oral hygiene education
    - i. Patient-centered strategies
    - ii. Patient values
    - iii. Patient motivation
    - iv. Manual dexterity
  - b. Nutritional counseling including dietary analysis
  - c. Educational techniques/methodologies, and learning styles/preferences appropriate throughout the lifespan
- 6. Infection and hazard control protocols (Lec and Lab)
  - a. Infection control procedure for disinfection of the dental operatory and sterilization of instruments
  - b. Prevention of cross contamination
  - c. Duties of sterilizer
  - d. Equipment maintenance, spore testing, and quality control records
- 7. Law, ethics, and professionalism (Lec and Lab)
  - a. Accurate and detailed patient records
  - b. Patient confidentiality and HIPAA regulations
  - c. Delivery of respectful and culturally competent care
  - d. Professional conduct when interacting with patients, faculty, and peers

## Lab Content

- 1. Dental hygiene clinical practice: Students assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene care on diverse range of patients across the lifespan in a clinical setting
- 2. Dental hygiene students participate in the following as part of their clinical dental hygiene experiences:
  - a. Dental unit preparation, patient chart review, and faculty huddle before clinic session begins
  - b. Post-appointment one-on-one faculty/student consultations
  - c. One-on-one student/clinic coordinator conferences for dental chart audits and review of course requirements

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- 1. Multimedia classroom and dental hygiene clinic including sterilization area and radiology lab. Dental supplies, student instrument kit, typodont, personal protective barriers, expendable supplies.
- 2. When taught as a hybrid course, access to computer with email software and hardware; email address.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Clinic competencies:

- 1. Periodontal probing with a grade of 75% or higher
  - 2. Instrument sharpening competency with a grade of 80% or higher
  - 3. Oral hygiene instruction competency with a grade of 75% or higher
- Clinic requirements:
- 1. Complete dental hygiene care on a minimum of three patients
  - 2. Complete a patient competency project with a grade of 75% or higher

## Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture  
Laboratory  
Clinical instruction

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Bowen, D., and J. Pieren. Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice, 6th ed.. 2024.

Nield-Gehrig. Fundamentals of Periodontal Instrumentation, 8th ed.. 2019.

Nield-Gehrig, J., D. Shin, and D. Willman. Foundations of Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist, 5th ed.. 2019.

Wynn, R., T. Meiler, and H. Crossley. Drug Information Handbook for Dentistry, 29th ed.. 2024.

Chan, P., and J. Leicht. Foothill College Dental Hygiene Policy Manual. 2024.

Chan, P., J. Leicht, and P. Staana. Foothill College Dental Hygiene Clinic Manual. 2024.

## Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- 1. Write a 5-7 page case study/reflection report on a patient treated in the clinic for competency and complete all required assignments and paperwork for competency project.
- 2. Reading assignments (weekly) in the clinic manual, textbooks, evidence based scholarly research articles as a means for being prepared to deliver dental hygiene care to clinical patients.
- 3. Document assessment findings, treatment plans, dental hygiene treatment entries, referrals, and in the patient electronic charts for patients seen in the clinic each week.

## Discipline(s)

Dental Technology