

DENTAL HYGIENE

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree program is part of the statewide community college baccalaureate degree program authorized under AB 927. The dental hygiene program is highly academic with an emphasis on development of evidence-based clinical practice skills to prepare graduates to assess the medical/dental status of patients across the lifespan, develop a dental hygiene care plan, implement appropriate dental hygiene care, and evaluate the outcomes of dental hygiene care. The dental hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and is approved by the Dental Hygiene Board of California. Graduates are eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and qualify for state or regional clinical examinations for licensure.

Learn more about the program on the [Dental Hygiene website](#).

Program Learning Outcomes

- Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program will demonstrate the values, ethical decision-making skills, application of knowledge, and use of effective communication skills in all aspects of their role as an oral health care provider and oral health care professional.
- Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program will demonstrate competency in the delivery of evidence-based practice and critical thinking skills in oral health promotion and disease prevention services to persons across the lifespan in a wide range of settings including private practice and public health.

Career Opportunities

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 9% through 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. This projected growth ranks dental hygiene among the fastest growing occupations, as there will be an increasing demand for dental care and the greater use of dental hygienists in a wide range of settings. Clinical practice opportunities exist for dental hygienists in general dentistry and dental specialties such as pediatrics and periodontics. Other career opportunities include public health, dental product sales and marketing, dental hygiene education, scientific research, and in the provision of continuing education/professional development programs.

Award Type(s)

BS = Bachelor of Science Degree

Units Required

- General education and prerequisite courses: 91.5
- Major courses and upper division general education: 107
- Total units: 198.5

Program Application

Admittance to this program is through an application process. Program information, admission criteria, and application to the program can be found on the [Dental Hygiene Program website](#).

Program Prerequisites

Must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Recency of courses: There is a six-year recency requirement for **the biological sciences** (anatomy and physiology, microbiology, nutrition, and pharmacology), which must be passed with a GPA of 2.75 or higher.
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).
- **The following courses are required for the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree and must be completed before starting the core dental hygiene courses:**

Code	Title	Units
CHEM 30A & CHEM 30B	SURVEY OF INORGANIC & ORGANIC CHEMISTRY and SURVEY OF ORGANIC & BIOCHEMISTRY	10
or equivalent		
MATH 10	ELEMENTARY STATISTICS	5
or PSYC 7		
or SOC 7		
or equivalent		
HLTH 20	INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH	4-5
or HLTH 21		
or equivalent		
PSYC 1	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (or equivalent)	5
SOC 1	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (or equivalent)	5
COMM 1A	PUBLIC SPEAKING	5
or COMM 1AH HONORS PUBLIC SPEAKING		
or COMM 1B ARGUMENTATION & PERSUASION		
or COMM 2 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION		
or COMM 3 INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES		
or COMM 4 GROUP DISCUSSION		
or equivalent		
COMM 10	GENDER, COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	5
or COMM 12 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION		
or equivalent		
BIOL 40A & BIOL 40B & BIOL 40C	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I and HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II and HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY III	15
or equivalent		
BIOL 41	MICROBIOLOGY (or equivalent)	6
BIOL 45	INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN NUTRITION (or equivalent)	4
PHT 58	FUNDAMENTALS OF PHARMACOLOGY	4
D H 200L	INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL HYGIENE	1.5
ENGL 1A	COMPOSITION & READING	5
or ENGL 1AH HONORS COMPOSITION & READING		
or ESLL 26 ADVANCED COMPOSITION & READING		
or equivalent		
ENGL 1B	COMPOSITION, CRITICAL READING & THINKING THROUGH LITERATURE	5

or ENGL 1BH	HONORS COMPOSITION, CRITICAL READING & THINKING THROUGH LITERATURE
or ENGL 1C	ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING
or ENGL 1CH	HONORS ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING
or PHIL 1	CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING
or PHIL 7	INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC
or equivalent	

Bachelor Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree is a 2+2 program: two years of prerequisite courses, including the required general education, science courses, and social sciences courses; then, following an application and acceptance to the dental hygiene program, there are two years of dental hygiene core courses and upper division general education. The bachelor degree requires completion of one of the following general education patterns: CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). Completion of the pre-program courses and general education does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program. It is strongly recommended that students meet with a counselor to create an education plan.

Note: All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a grade of "C" or better is required for all core and support courses used for the degree. All dental hygiene courses must be taken in sequence and must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Students who wish to apply for a Board of Governors Fee Waiver pursuant to Education Code Section 76300 shall be required to complete and submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act application in lieu of completing the Board of Governors Fee Waiver application.

Enrollment Fees and Tuition: Upper Division Coursework Fee (California Education Code (CEC), 78042(g)(5); CCR, title 5, section 58520)—additional upper division course fee of \$56/unit for quarter system colleges charged on all upper division courses that are part of an approved Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program.

Core and Support Courses

Core Courses

Course	Title	Units
First Year		
Summer Session		
D H 50	ORIENTATION TO DENTAL HYGIENE	1
Units		1
Fall Quarter		
D H 300A	ORAL BIOLOGY I	3
D H 302	ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES IN DENTAL HYGIENE	3
D H 304	PRE-CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE	4
D H 305A	INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY I	2
IDS 300	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ¹	5
Units		17
Winter Quarter		
D H 300B	ORAL BIOLOGY II	3
D H 305B	DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY II	1
D H 308	CLINICAL TECHNIQUE	6
D H 310	DENTAL MATERIALS	3

D H 312	EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	1
D H 314	DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	2
Units		16
Spring Quarter		
D H 305C	DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY III	2
D H 316A	PERIODONTICS I	3
D H 318	INTRODUCTION TO CLINIC	7
BIOL 300	HUMAN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY ¹	4
HLTH 300	HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN ¹	5
Units		21
Second Year		
Summer Session		
D H 320A	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE I	3
D H 322	LOCAL ANESTHESIA	2.5
Units		5.5
Fall Quarter		
D H 316B	PERIODONTICS II	2
D H 320B	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE II	8.5
D H 324	ORAL PATHOLOGY	2
D H 326A	COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH I	2
D H 328A	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE THEORY I	2
Units		16.5
Winter Quarter		
D H 305D	DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY IV	1
D H 320C	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE III	8.5
D H 326B	COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH II	2
D H 328B	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE THEORY II	2
D H 330	NITROUS OXIDE/OXYGEN ANALGESIA	1
Units		14.5
Spring Quarter		
D H 320D	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE IV	8.5
D H 326C	COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH III	2
D H 328C	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE THEORY III	2
D H 332	ETHICS, LAW & BUSINESS PRACTICES	3
Units		15.5
Total Units		107

¹ Upper Division General Education courses.

Please note: Total Units listed above includes 14 units of Upper Division General Education courses.

Dental Hygiene Bachelor of Science Degree Completion Track Program Description

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree completion track broadens the educational experience of licensed dental hygienists who have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program by providing a liberal arts and broad-based general education component, including critical thinking, analysis, writing, researching, and reporting. The program will prepare dental hygienists to interact effectively with other health professionals in a competent, collaborative, and ethical manner. The program can be completed in 1-2 years and will award the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree upon successful completion of all courses and program requirements. Students will take online upper division coursework focused on developing communication and critical thinking skills necessary for the bachelor degree. Completing the bachelor degree will allow the licensed dental hygienist to pursue career options in education, corporate/industry, research, and public

health. The completion track is authorized under AB 927 and the State Chancellor's Office.

Learn more about the program on the [Dental Hygiene website](#).

Units Required

- Major: 64 (additional units are required to satisfy prerequisites and general education requirements)

Program Application

Admittance to this program is through an application process. Program information, admission criteria, and application to the program can be found on the [Dental Hygiene Program website](#).

Program Prerequisites

- Associate degree from an accredited two-year community college dental hygiene program.
- Active and in good standing Registered Dental Hygiene license (RDH or RDHAP).
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).

Bachelor Degree Requirements

30 units of core courses in dental hygiene and 14 units of upper division general education courses; active and good standing dental hygiene license; and completion of one of the following general education patterns: CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).

Foothill College awards 24 units as credit for prior learning for passing the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination, Regional/State Clinical Licensing Examination, and State Law & Ethics Examination.

It is strongly recommended that students meet with a counselor for evaluation of transcripts and to determine if general education pattern has been completed.

Core and Support Courses

Select one of the following options (option is selected during the application process):

Option 1: One academic year (must begin in spring quarter)

Course	Title	Units
First Year		
Spring Quarter		
IDS 300	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ¹	5
HLTH 300	HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN ¹	5
Units		10
Second Year		
Fall Quarter		
D H 350A	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT I	5
D H 352	HEALTH COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL ISSUES	5
Units		10
Winter Quarter		
D H 350B	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT II	5
D H 356	EDUCATION THEORY, PRACTICE & ADMINISTRATION	5
Units		10
Spring Quarter		
D H 350C	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT III	5

D H 354	HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT	5
Units		10
Total Units		40

¹ Upper Division General Education courses.

Please note: Total Units for the completion track is 64 units, which includes Upper Division General Education courses and 24 units awarded as credit for prior learning.

Option 2: Two academic years (must begin in fall quarter)

Course	Title	Units
First Year		
Fall Quarter		
D H 352	HEALTH COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL ISSUES	5
Units		5
Winter Quarter		
D H 356	EDUCATION THEORY, PRACTICE & ADMINISTRATION	5
Units		5
Spring Quarter		
D H 354	HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT	5
IDS 300	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ¹	5
Units		10
Second Year		
Fall Quarter		
D H 350A	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT I	5
Units		5
Winter Quarter		
D H 350B	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT II	5
Units		5
Spring Quarter		
D H 350C	DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH & CAPSTONE PROJECT III	5
HLTH 300	HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN ¹	5
Units		10
Total Units		40

¹ Upper Division General Education courses.

Please note: Total Units for the completion track is 64 units, which includes Upper Division General Education courses and 24 units awarded as credit for prior learning.