



Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene

Program Information Packet



The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by:

Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago IL 60611
800.621.8099 or 312.440.4653
www.ada.org/en/coda/contact

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Dental Hygiene Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Pensacola State College Dental Hygiene Program is to provide the environment and educational experiences in which students assume responsibility for their own learning, share in the learning process, and become personally involved in the learning event. Our philosophy incorporates educators who involve students in the direction of their educational experiences, as well as treat students as responsible, independent, mature individuals.

Dental Hygiene Program Goals

- Program Goal #1:** Acquire evidence based didactic information necessary for performing all functions of the dental hygienists, at a competency level of 75% or higher.
- Program Goal #2:** Provide comprehensive dental hygiene services and care to all patients and perform legal advanced functions to laboratory and clinical competency level of 75% or higher.
- Program Goal #3:** Promote a commitment to community service.
- Program Goal #4:** Develop the academic foundation for higher education and life-long learning experiences.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- PSLO #1:** Perform appropriate comprehensive dental hygiene services for a periodontally involved patient.
- PSLO #2:** Implement community service.
- PSLO #3:** Build the foundation for lifelong learning.
- PSLO #4:** Evaluate scientific research.

General Information

A career as a dental hygienist offers a wide range of opportunities, patient care, educator, researcher, public health, corporate, administration and entrepreneur. Dental hygienist in a clinical role assess, plan, implement, evaluate and document treatment to meet the oral health needs of the patient. State regulations vary from state to state, the range of services performed by hygienists. Some of the services provided by dental hygienists may include:

- patient screening procedures; such as assessment of oral health conditions, review of the health history, oral cancer screening, head and neck inspection, dental charting and taking blood pressure and pulse
- taking and developing dental radiographs (x-rays)
- removing calculus and plaque (hard and soft deposits) from all surfaces of the teeth
- periodontal therapy
- applying preventive materials to the teeth (e.g., sealants and fluorides)
- teaching patients appropriate oral hygiene strategies to maintain oral health; (e.g., tooth brushing, flossing and nutritional counseling)
- counseling patients about good nutrition and its impact on oral health
- making impressions of patients' teeth for study casts (models of teeth used by dentists to evaluate patient treatment needs)
- performing documentation and office management activities
- administration of local anesthesia

The program is six (6) semesters and accepts a new cohort in the summer semester. The program is limited access, meaning the student must meet admission criteria and is ranked by date meeting admission criteria to determine acceptance into the program. The graduate of the program is eligible to take the national licensure exam given by the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE). To become a Registered Dental Hygienist, one must successfully pass a clinic examination. Pensacola State College hosts the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) who administer the ADEX. The outlook for Dental Hygienists in Florida can also be found on the Pensacola State College website located: <http://www.pensacolastate.edu/academic-programs/dh-as/>.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Submission of Pensacola State College (PSC) Application (\$30 non-refundable fee)
- Submit an application for the Health-Science Programs at healthprograms@pensacolastate.edu
- High school graduate/GED
- Submission of official high school or GED transcripts
- Submission of official transcripts from all colleges currently attending or previously attended
- Completion of required prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or better and an overall grade point average of these courses of 2.75:
 - ENC 1101C English Composition I
 - BSC1093 Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BCS1093L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab
 - MCB1000 Applied Microbiology
 - MCB1000L Applied Microbiology Lab
 - CHM 1045 General Chemistry I
 - CHM 1045L General Chemistry I Lab
 - MAC 1105 College Algebra

PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

- “C” or higher in courses in the program.
- Complete and satisfy a level II background screen (prior to admission).
- Complete and satisfy a negative drug screen (prior to admission).
- Current American Heart Association Health Care Provider Basic Life Support certificate
- Complete and satisfy clinical requirements; health data form, Immunizations/vaccines:
 - TDaP (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis) booster within 10 years OR TD booster within 2 years
 - MMR -Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, Rubella
 - Varicella (chicken pox)
 - Hepatitis B
 - Tuberculosis – required annually
 - Influenza - required annually (October – April).

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum grade of “C” in all courses in the program.
- At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree are earned through the instruction offered by Pensacola State College.

Positive Drug Screen Policy

Applicants who test positive on the required drug screen and cannot provide appropriate documentation to the Medical Review Officer explaining the positive result will result in being withdrawn from the program and be suspended on the candidate list for any limited access healthcare program for one year after the date of the positive drug screen.

At the end of the one-year suspension the applicant will be considered for all programs in which they received candidacy based on their original candidacy date prior to the one-year suspension for the positive drug screen.

Health Examination

Dental hygienists are at risk for acquiring or transmitting covid-19, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella. All these diseases are vaccine-preventable. In the U.S., the risk of HIV transmission in dental settings is extremely low.

After a student is accepted into the dental hygiene program, he/she must have a physical examination. A chest x-ray or TB test must be done before program entry. In addition, students must provide documentation of titers for required

immunizations. A Health Program Medical Form must be filled out and signed by the physician indicating the student has no significant medical history or condition, including the presence of infectious disease that could affect functioning as a health care student. This form must be completed and submitted through Castlebranch at beginning of the program. Health information will be kept confidential and placed in your student file. A background check and drug screening will also be required. Students with a positive drug screen will not be admitted in the program and be required to wait one year before admission. A drug screen completed past the due date will be considered a positive test. Students need to be aware they may not be able to continue in the program or acquire a Florida Dental Hygiene license based on the information contained in the results of their background check.

Performance Standards

The Dental Hygiene program applicant should possess the following capabilities:

1. Be of sound mind and body to perform the professional duties of a Dental Hygiene student without becoming injurious to self or others.
2. Sufficient physical, motor, sensory, intellectual, emotional, and social/ communication skills to provide safe patient care utilizing a variety of equipment in different health care environments.

Examples of performance standards are outlined below.

Technical Standards/ Physical Abilities & Skills	Standard	Examples
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move independently from room to room, walk in hallways, maneuver in small places such as patient rooms, sterilization, storage or radiation rooms.	Walk independently with patients around the patient room, down the corridor, from one patient room to another to take care of all patients on a team and to assist in the transport of some patients from wheelchair to dental chair. Walk, stand, sit for long periods of time, stoop, lift patients when necessary, squat, reach, twist, bend, push, pull, drag, climb. The student must have use of both hands and dexterity in the fingers to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental handpieces, and operate dental equipment. The feet are used to manipulate the foot pedals for handpieces and other adjunct dental equipment. Body build must fit into dental operator's stool in order to perform dental hygiene procedures.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor skills to practice safe and efficient patient care. Sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate equipment in the patient care setting.	Must have use of both hands and dexterity in the fingers to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental handpieces, and operate dental equipment. The feet are used to depress the foot pedals. Body build must fit into the dental operator's stool in order to perform dental hygiene procedures. The ability to stand or sit for long durations of time is also necessary.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Auscultation of breath sounds, heart sounds, blood pressure, bowel sounds, hearing alarms, call bells telephones in patient care, converse with patients, family and staff from varying distances with varying audible sounds.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary to provide safe patient care.	The student must be able to differentiate various shades of colors in a limited environment and space in the oral cavity and must be able to distinguish shades of grey for dental radiographic interpretation. The student must be able to identify the working ends of various dental instruments and other dental implements at a 2-foot distance. Conceptualize one dimensional renderings in a three-dimensional form, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to another and discriminate intricate measurements.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and to provide safe patient care.	The student must be able to manipulate dental instruments to discern changes in surface textures, without causing trauma to dental tissues, and to control pressure exerted by dental handpieces on dental tissue to prevent injury to those tissues.

Technical Standards/ Physical Abilities & Skills	Standard	Examples
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in coherent and concise oral and written form.	Able to effectively communicate in English. Follow spontaneous verbal and/or written instructions. Able to comprehend complex information from scientific and technical journals, papers and textbooks. Able communicate the patient's response to treatment, to other members of the health care team, document patient responses to therapy on health care forms utilizing various forms of media, consult with health care team members/workers in a professional manner. The student must be able to perceive sound through telephone, hear commands through an operator's face mask, and discern blood pressure sounds through a stethoscope. A student must be able to speak clearly and with the correct pronunciation of dental and medical terms. The student must be able to communicate technical information at a level appropriate for patient understanding.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal skills sufficient for interaction with patients, families and groups from diverse backgrounds (cultural, emotional, intellectual) in a variety of health care settings	Converse effectively with patients, families, and groups and in stressful patient care situations such as emergencies. Remain sensitive to the needs of the patient through appropriate communication, patient assessment, patient monitoring and patient care skills.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical decision-making	Think critically and use independent, professional and ethical judgment in all aspects of their work. The student must possess the ability to gather, classify, and interpret information about data, people, or things and must be able to carry out appropriate actions in relation to the data received. Applying principles of ALARA to minimize exposure to patient, self and others. Engage in continuing education to include their area of practice to enhance patient care, public education, knowledge and technical competence. The student must be able to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. The student must be able to determine percentages, convert fractions, ratios and proportions as well as basic subtraction, addition, multiplication and division. The student must have the ability to understand and interpret the implications and meanings of the numerical values.
Personal Temperament	The student must be able to maintain a professional attitude and appearance.	The student must be able to deal with the academic rigors of course load, clinical requirements, constructive criticism, and patient attitudes. The student must have the ability to adapt to change and be able to function and focus in an environment with multiple extraneous stimuli.

Dental Hygiene Program Degree Requirements

Complete the following General Education courses with a minimum “C” or higher in each course
Must have a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in these seven (7) courses:

Prerequisite Courses (18 cc)

ENC 1101C	English Composition I	3 cc
BSC1093	Anatomy & Physiology I	3 cc
BCS1093L	Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1 cc
MCB1000	Applied Microbiology	3 cc
MCB1000L	Applied Microbiology Lab	1 cc
CHM 1045	General Chemistry I	3 cc
CHM 1045L	General Chemistry I Lab	1 cc
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3 cc

Semester 1 (10 cc) – Summer

BSC1094	Anatomy and Physiology II	3 cc
BSC1094L	Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	1 cc
DES1000	Dental Anatomy	2 cc
SPC1006	Study of Speaking and Listening	1 cc
DEP 2004	Human Growth and Development	3 cc
	CPR- students must possess and maintain a Healthcare Providers, BLS American Heart CPR card	

Semester 2 (14 cc) – Fall

DES1010	Head and Neck Anatomy	2 cc
DEH1130	Oral Embryology and Histology	1 cc
DEH1002	Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene	3 cc
DEH1002L	Dental Hygiene Pre-Clinic	3 cc
DES1200C	Dental Hygiene Radiology I	3 cc
DEH1720	Preventive Dentistry	2 cc

Semester 3 (14 cc) – Spring

DEH1811	Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence	1 cc
DEH1800	Dental Hygiene I	2 cc
DEH1800L	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	4 cc
DEH1400	Oral Pathology	2 cc
DEH2602	Periodontics	2 cc
SYG2000	Introduction to Sociology	3 cc

Semester 4 (10 cc) – Summer

DEH1802	Dental Hygiene II	1 cc
DEH1802L	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	3 cc
DEH2202	Nutrition and Dental Health	2 cc
DES1100C	Dental Materials	3 cc
DES1051C	Pain Management	1 cc

Semester 5 (14 cc) – Fall

DEH2300	Pharmacology/Dental Office Emergencies	2 cc
DEH2804	Dental Hygiene III	2 cc
DEH2804L	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	5 cc
DEH2702	Dental Public Health	2 cc
See Choices	Humanities (General Education Core Course)	3 cc

Semester 6 (8 cc) – Spring

DEH2812	Dental Hygiene IV	2 cc
DEH2812L	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	5 cc
DEH2702L	Dental Public Health Lab	1 cc

TOTAL COLLEGE CREDITS: 88

ADVANCED STANDING and Transfer Credit Departmental Course Exemption Examination

1. Any recent graduate (within 2 years) of an American Dental Association accredited dental assisting program may request a departmental examination for the following courses in order to receive college credit. Students who pass the exam will receive a “P”:

DES 1010 Head and Neck Anatomy
 DES 1100C Dental Materials
 DES 1000 Dental Anatomy
 DES 1200C Radiology I
 DEH 1720 Preventive Dentistry

The student will be required to complete an exemption request form for each course and pay the appropriate fee to the registrar. Upon receipt of the registrar’s form, the student will contact the instructor to schedule the departmental exam. Students requesting credit for DES 1200C will be required to take a practical examination to demonstrate competency.

2. Courses for substitution must be equal or greater in credit hours to those in the current dental hygiene curriculum and be similar in course number and content.

3. For further information, contact the Dental Hygiene Program Director.

Any credits accepted from another accredited educational institution must be evaluated on a course by course basis. Grades lower than a “C” or 2.0 will not be accepted.

Dental Hygiene Program of Study

SUMMER		FALL		SPRING		SUMMER		FALL		SPRING	
BSC1094 Anatomy and Physiology II	3cc	DES1010 Head and Neck Anatomy	2cc	DEH1811 Dental Ethics and Jurisprudence	1cc	DEH 1802 Dental Hygiene II	1cc	DEH2300 Pharmacology/ Dental Office Emergencies	2cc	DEH2812 Dental Hygiene IV	2cc
BSC 1094L Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	1cc	DEH1130 Oral Embryology and Histology	1cc	DEH 1800 Dental Hygiene I	2cc	DEH 1802L Dental Hygiene Clinic II	3cc	DEH2804 Dental Hygiene III	2cc	DEH2812 L Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	5cc
DES1000 Dental Anatomy	2cc	DEH1002 Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene	3cc	DEH 1800L Dental Hygiene Clinic I	4cc	DEH 2202 Nutrition and Dental Health	2cc	DEH2804L Dental Hygiene Clinic III	5cc	DEH2702L Dental Public Health Lab	1cc
SPC1006 Study of Speaking and Listening	1cc	DEH1002L Dental Hygiene Preclinic	3cc	DEH 1400 Oral Pathology	2cc	DES1100C Dental Materials	3cc	DEH2702 Dental Public Health	2cc		
DEP 2004 Human Growth and Development	3cc	DES1200C Dental Hygiene Radiology I	3cc	DEH2602 Periodontics	2cc	DES1051C Pain Management	1cc	See Choices Humanities (General Education Core Course)	3cc		
W00753 CPR –students must possess and maintain a Healthcare Provider , BLS American Heart CPR Care		DEH1720 Preventive Dentistry	2cc	SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology	3cc						
College Credits	10	College Credits	14	College Credits	14	College Credits	10	College Credits	14	College Credits	8

Who Can I Call If I Have Questions About the Program or The Application Process?

Department	Telephone #	Importance
Health Sciences Department Head Dr. Mitzie Sowell.....	484-2301 msowell@pensacolastate.edu	The student is advised to contact the Department Head for any specific program related questions.
Health Sciences Assistant Department Head Ms. Wanda McNeal.....	484-2259 wmcneal@pensacolastate.edu	
Program Director Ms. Donna Winterberry.....	484-2243 dwinterberry@pensacolastate.edu	
Academic Advising Offices Warrington Campus..... Pensacola Campus..... Milton Campus..... South Santa Rosa Center.....	484-2270 484-1630 484-4410 471-4630	Discuss academic concerns/options and/or answer career questions.
Admissions Warrington Campus..... Pensacola Campus..... Milton Campus..... South Santa Rosa Center..... healthprograms@pensacolastate.edu	484-2270 484-1600 484-4410 471-4630	Submit the Pensacola State College application for admission at any campus. The Registrar's Office on the Pensacola Campus will verify that all transcripts and required documents are received. Provides assistance regarding the documents required to finalize admission into Pensacola State College's Dental Hygiene program
Financial Aid/Veteran Affairs/Scholarships Pensacola Campus..... Warrington Campus..... Milton Campus.....	484-1680 484-2349 484-4410	Discuss available financial support.

Estimated Cost of Program

Expenses	In-State	Alabama Residents	Out of State
Pensacola State College Application Fee (first time students)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Tuition – 88 credits (\$104.58/cc FL) (\$114.58/cc/AL) (\$419.76/cc out state)	\$9,203.04	\$10,083.04	\$36,938.88
Lab Fees	\$1,307.33	\$1,307.33	\$1307.33
Books	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Preclinical Physical Examination, Immunizations, Vaccines, BLS	Varies	Varies	Varies
Instruments and Supplies	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Uniform / Shoes/ Loupes	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Professional Organization Dues	\$250	\$250	\$250
Board Expenses *Varies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Program Total	\$20,890.37	\$21,740.37	\$48,596.21

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are typical tasks a clinical dental hygienist will perform?

Assess, plan, implement and evaluate oral health needs. Apply dental protective agents and perform preventative treatments relating to oral hygiene, using scaling and polishing equipment. Expose and interpret dental x-rays. Make impressions of teeth. Educate individuals and groups on oral hygiene.

What other occupations are available in this career?

Research	Management	Public Health	Teaching
Dental Product Sales	Insurance	Federal service	

What is the degree progression?

The dental hygiene program is a two-year course of study. Students who successfully complete the program will receive an Associate of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene. With additional coursework, graduates of the program are eligible to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree. Master's degree programs are also available

What is required to practice as a Dental Hygienist?

Dental Hygienists must be licensed by the state in which they practice. Pensacola State College graduates are eligible to sit for the state board examination in any state in which they desire to practice.

When should I apply to the Dental Hygiene Program?

Students interested in dental hygiene should apply to Pensacola State College then submit the Application for Health Related Programs **before** beginning the admissions process.

What is the deadline for admission?

The selection is made in January each year for the class which will begin in May. However, if you complete all the requirements by January you are not guaranteed a spot in the upcoming May class.

What is the selection process?

The process for selecting dental hygiene students is completed by the College's Department of Admissions. The Department of Admissions evaluates applicants on a continuous basis. Once all requirements are met, applicants are ranked by the date of completion of the admission requirements. In January-March of each year, letters are sent to the applicants. The class is comprised of up to 35 students. If an applicant declines their seat, the seat will be filled by the next applicant on the list. Any qualified applicant who is not selected for the annual class will remain on the list for the following year.

What courses should I take in high school to prepare myself for admission into the dental hygiene program?

High school courses in biology, chemistry and algebra are highly recommended to prepare the student for the science-based field of dental hygiene.

EA/EO STATEMENT

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