

DENTAL HYGIENE

Associate in Applied Science A.A.S.: Dental Hygiene Degree

This 81-credit hour program prepares the graduate to be a dental hygienist. The dental hygienist is a highly skilled primary care oral health professional with the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent and treat oral diseases and conditions. As an integral member of the oral health care team, the dental hygienist collaboratively practices evidence-based comprehensive dental hygiene care with the ultimate goal of improving oral health as an essential component of total health. The dental hygienist must have a strong foundation in biomedical science and demonstrate clinical competency including effective communication and interpersonal skills, and professional and ethical behavior. The dental hygienist must also have the ability to evaluate and utilize emerging technologies and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address current and future issues in oral health care.

This degree prepares the graduate for employment as a clinician in a variety of health care settings including solo, group and specialty dental practices, public health clinics, hospitals, and long-term care facilities. With additional education, employment opportunities are available in the corporate sector in sales and as educational specialists, in academia, research, and health care management.

The Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene qualifies the graduate to complete the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, the clinical board examination, and apply for Illinois licensure as a registered dental hygienist.

This program meets the Illinois Board of Dentistry guidelines, is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, and is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Because of the nature of clinical experience and individualized instruction required in this program and specialized technology and the equipment necessary to offer this program, a higher tuition rate is assessed for career specific courses. These include courses with the prefix DHY. Students pay 1.5 the regular rate of tuition.

Admission Requirements:

Dental Hygiene is a limited enrollment program. For admission requirements, please contact the Admissions Outreach Office at 847.925.6700 or visit harpercollege.edu.

Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are obligated to meet the current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance to the program.

Upon admission to the Dental Hygiene program, the mathematics requirement is met.

PREREQUISITES:

A grade of C or better in all BIO, CHM, ENG, PSY, SOC courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
BIO 230	Microbiology ¹	4	AAS General Education
BIO 260	Human Anatomy ²	4	AAS General Education
BIO 261	Human Physiology ²	4	AAS General Education
CHM 100	Chemistry for the Health Sciences ²	4	Program Requirement
ENG 101	Composition I	3	AAS General Education
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology+	3	AAS General Education
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology+	3	AAS General Education

FIRST SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 100	Introduction to Dental Hygiene Fundamentals	1	Program Requirement

SECOND SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 101	Dental Hygiene Principles I	2	Program Requirement
DHY 105	Dental Hygiene Preclinic Laboratory	2	Program Requirement
DHY 106	Oral Health Assessment	1	Program Requirement
DHY 108	Medical Emergencies in Dentistry	0.5	Program Requirement
DHY 111	Dental Radiology I	2	Program Requirement
DHY 113	Dental Radiology Laboratory	1	Program Requirement
DHY 116	Periodontology I	1	Program Requirement
DHY 159	Head and Neck Anatomy	3	Program Requirement
DHY 161	Oral and Dental Anatomy	2	Program Requirement

THIRD SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 121	Dental Hygiene Principles II	1	Program Requirement
DHY 123	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	2	Program Requirement
DHY 125	Oral Health Strategies	1	Program Requirement
DHY 190	General and Oral Pathology	2	Program Requirement

DHY 200	Periodontology II	1	Program Requirement
DHY 202	Dental Radiology II	1	Program Requirement
DHY 269	Dental Materials for the Dental Hygienist	1	Program Requirement
DHY 270	Dental Materials Lab Techniques for the Dental Hygienist	1	Program Requirement
SPE 215	Intercultural Communication	3	AAS General Education

FOURTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 119	Oral Health Management of Special Needs Populations	1	Program Requirement
DHY 151	Dental Hygiene Principles III	1	Program Requirement
DHY 153	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	2	Program Requirement
DHY 203	Dental Radiology III	0.5	Program Requirement
DHY 240	Dental Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2	Program Requirement

FIFTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 205	Dental Radiology IV	0.5	Program Requirement
DHY 230	Dental Pain and Anxiety Management	1	Program Requirement
DHY 232	Dental Pain and Anxiety Management Lab	1	Program Requirement
DHY 235	Dental Scientific Literature	1	Program Requirement
DHY 250	Dental Hygiene Principles IV	1	Program Requirement
DHY 251	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	3	Program Requirement
DHY 253	Periodontology III	2	Program Requirement
DHY 255	Dental Hygiene Advanced Periodontology Clinic	1	Program Requirement

SIXTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all DHY courses is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DHY 130	Nutrition for Oral Health	1	Program Requirement
DHY 201	Ethics, Jurisprudence and Transition to Professional Practice	2	Program Requirement
DHY 207	Dental Radiology V	0.5	Program Requirement
DHY 220	Community Oral Health	3	Program Requirement
DHY 260	Dental Hygiene Principles V	1	Program Requirement
DHY 262	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	3	Program Requirement

1 This course must be taken prior to beginning DHY courses.

2 This course must be completed with a grade of C or better no earlier than five years prior to beginning the Dental Hygiene program.

+ This course meets the World Culture and Diversity graduation requirement.