

Dental Hygiene

The Dental Hygiene curriculum prepares individuals with the knowledge and skills to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene care for the individual and the community.

Students learn to prepare the operatory, take patient histories, note abnormalities, prepare patient-centered care plans, teach oral hygiene techniques, provide periodontal therapy, acquire radiographic images, apply preventive agents, record patient data utilizing an electronic patient management software system and perform other procedures within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

Graduates of this program are prepared to take national and state/regional examinations for licensure, which are required to practice dental hygiene. Employment opportunities include positions in dental offices, hospital clinics, schools, public health agencies, industry, and professional education.

For specific information about potential positions and wages in dental hygiene employment, visit the Central Piedmont Career Coach website.

Dental Hygiene (A45260)

Degree Awarded

The Associate in Applied Science degree - Dental Hygiene Degree is awarded by the college upon completing this program.

Program Admission Steps

- Complete an admissions application to Central Piedmont.
- Submit high school transcripts, as well as any college transcripts, to Admissions, Records & Registration on the second floor of the Central High Building.
- Take the required placement tests or obtain a waiver.
- Meet with a counselor or an advisor to review placement test scores, program information and select courses for registration.
- Take applicable Developmental Education courses.
- Complete and submit a Dental Hygiene Application by the deadline date.
- Take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), ATI TEAS
- Check the Courses section for details, as many courses have prerequisite or co-requisite requirements.

Please refer to enrollment instruction for a degree or transfer student under the Admissions Enroll Now tab.

In any Associate Degree Health Sciences program for which there are more applicants who have completed pre-admission requirements than there are positions, admission points are assigned according to the applicant's documented record. Criteria for selection include scores on the TEAS test, past academic performance, and experience in the field of interest.

Additional Credentials

- All students are required to be certified in Health Care Provider CPR or CPR for Professional Rescuer before entering the Dental Hygiene Program.
- Students must complete a minimum of CHM 121 and 121A or college equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher to apply to the dental hygiene

program. The chemistry requirement must be completed not more than five years prior to acceptance.

- In order to participate in clinical education experiences at health care facilities, students may be required to submit results of a NC state or national criminal background check at their own expense.

Notes

Licensure to practice dental hygiene is required before working in any state or jurisdiction. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (NCSBDE) may request information regarding felony convictions, misdemeanors, and current charges on the application for licensure and may decide not to license an individual, based on the results of an investigation. The NCSBDE may also require applications to submit a social security number on licensure applications.

Costs of this program, in addition to tuition and textbooks, include uniforms, instruments, physical examination, and specific vaccinations.

Progression in this program is dependent upon a grade of "C" or better in all general education courses, as well as major and related courses.

Contact Information

The Dental Hygiene program is in the Outpatient & Simulation Division. For more information, visit the Dental Hygiene website. For further assistance, contact the Program Chair at 704.330.6365.

General Education Requirements

ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3.0
SOC 210	Introduction to Sociology	3.0
COM 231	Public Speaking	3.0
or COM 110	Introduction to Communication	
Select 3 credits of the following:		3.0
MAT 110	Mathematical Measurement and Literacy	
MAT 143	Quantitative Literacy	
MAT 152	Statistical Methods I	
Select 3 credits of the following:		3.0
ART 111	Art Appreciation	
ART 114	Art History Survey I	
ART 115	Art History Survey II	
DRA 111	Theatre Appreciation	
HUM 120	Cultural Studies	
HUM 130	Myth in Human Culture	
MUS 110	Music Appreciation	
MUS 112	Introduction to Jazz	
PHI 215	Philosophical Issues	
PHI 240	Introduction to Ethics	
REL 110	World Religions	

Major Requirements

BIO 175	General Microbiology	3.0
DEN 110	Orofacial Anatomy	3.0
DEN 111	Infection/Hazard Control	2.0
DEN 112	Dental Radiography	3.0
DEN 120	Dental Hygiene Preclinic Lecture	2.0
DEN 121	Dental Hygiene Preclinical Lab	2.0
DEN 123	Nutrition/Dental Health	2.0
DEN 124	Periodontology	2.0

Dental Hygiene

DEN 130	Dental Hygiene Theory I	2.0
DEN 131	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	3.0
DEN 140	Dental Hygiene Theory II	1.0
DEN 141	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	2.0
DEN 220	Dental Hygiene Theory III	2.0
DEN 221	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	4.0
DEN 222	General & Oral Pathology	2.0
DEN 223	Dental Pharmacology	2.0
DEN 224	Materials and Procedures	2.0
DEN 230	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1.0
DEN 231	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	4.0
DEN 232	Community Dental Health	3.0
DEN 233	Professional Development	2.0
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	4.0
or BIO 165	Anatomy and Physiology I	
Other Major Requirements:		
DEN 125	Dental Office Emergencies	1.0
BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	4.0
or BIO 166	Anatomy and Physiology II	
Total Credits		73

No diplomas are offered in Dental Hygiene.

No certificates are offered in Dental Hygiene.

The following is the suggested sequence for when to take each course to complete the Associate in Applied Science degree, based on the program requirements of the 2022-2023 catalog. This is only a recommendation — you may take courses in another order if you need to. This sequence is based on you starting with college-level math and English courses, starting your program in the fall, and attending full-time. You can also follow this sequence if you attend part-time. Speak with an advisor about the sequence and any questions. This program does not offer diplomas or certificates at this time; visit the catalog or contact the program for details.

Dental Hygiene suggested course sequence