

DENTAL HYGIENE (ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE) (226P, 226)

Program Coordinator

Joseph W. Evans, joseph.evans@wku.edu, (270) 745-6274

Program Accreditation

Commission on Dental Accreditation (Program of Dental Hygiene).

Allied health is defined as all the professional, technical and supportive workers in patient care, public health and health research. Allied health professions encompass a wide distribution of personnel with various levels of health education and training, which enables them to function as a member of the health care team.

Program of Dental Hygiene

Students with an interest in the program of dental hygiene may contact the dental hygiene program coordinator. When planning a program of study in this program, each student should be aware of the University's academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter "Academic Information." Specific attention should be given to the subsections in the chapter entitled (a) Academic Programs, (b) Colonnade Program Requirements and (c) Academic Requirements and Regulations. Students should be aware that this academic program might require additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations, students should contact the program office.

Enrollment in the program of dental hygiene is limited and special admission information and other special rules, standards and requirements should be obtained directly from the program office (Academic Complex, Room 236G) or from the program website (<https://www.wku.edu/dentalhygiene/>).

The dental hygiene associate degree curriculum is designed primarily to prepare the graduate hygienist to effectively practice as a respected member of the dental hygiene profession. The education also provides the student with knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable him or her to serve as a community resource in matters of dental disease prevention and sound dental health practices.

The educational experience offered prepares the graduate hygienist to effectively carry out the duties as prescribed by licensure. Hygienists are prepared for varied career opportunities, which include the following settings: general dentistry practice, specialty practices, public health, military installations, hospitals or clinics, research facilities or public school dental hygiene.

Although 14 hours of Colonnade courses (including Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology) are prerequisites, most beginning dental hygiene students will have successfully completed one or more years of college.

The associate degree in dental hygiene requires a minimum of 83 unduplicated semester hours. The associate degree may be completed in five semesters and one summer term. Requirements are outlined below.

Prerequisites for Admission into the Major

Code	Title	Hours
BIOL 131	Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIOL 207	General Microbiology	3
BIOL 208	General Microbiology Laboratory	1
ENG 100	Introduction to College Writing	3
PSY/PSYS 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
Total Hours		14

Program Requirements (53 hours):

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
DH 201	Dental Radiology I	2
DH 204	Periodontics	3
DH 206	Dental Pharmacology	3
DH 210	Dental Materials and Expanded Functions in Restorative Dentistry I	2
DH 212	Oral Anatomy	3
DH 222	Preventive Dental Hygiene Care	2
DH 226	Dental Materials and Expanded Functions in Restorative Dentistry II	2
DH 230	Oral Histology and Embryology	3
DH 270	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
DH 271	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	4
DH 302	Dental Radiology II	2
DH 303	Community Dental Health	4
DH 307	General and Oral Pathology	3
DH 309	Pain Control in Dentistry	4
DH 324	Practice Management and Ethics	3
DH 370	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	5
DH 371	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
Total Hours		53

Additional Courses

Code	Title	Hours
HMD 211	Human Nutrition	3
CHEM 109	Chemistry for the Health Sciences	4
COMM 145	Fundamentals of Public Speaking and Communication	3
SOCL 100	Introductory Sociology	3
Total Hours		13