Dental Hygiene

From assessing an individual’s or group’s oral health needs and providing consultation to other health care professionals to the development of a comprehensive treatment plan and the delivery of services, dental hygienists play a key role in ensuring the overall well-being of a community. Those particularly well suited for a career in the field of dental hygiene are often good communicators, skillful with their hands and have a strong desire to work with people. If this sounds like you, there’s no better place to get your education than Wichita State.

Career Opportunities

Dental hygiene is routinely listed as one of today’s top-ten career fields, offering opportunities in a wide range of settings including private dental offices, public health agencies, research facilities, hospitals and educational institutions. And, thanks to growing evidence linking good oral health to good overall health, the United States Department of Labor projects that the need for licensed dental hygienists will grow by 38 percent between 2010 and 2020——much faster than the average for all other occupations.

Dental Hygiene at Wichita State

Wichita State is the only school in the state of Kansas to offer bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene and provides two programs for students to choose from: an entry-level Bachelor of Science program (fully accredited through the Commission on Dental Education of the American Dental Association) and a degree completion program for graduates of accredited associates degree programs.

The entry-level program lasts five semesters and is designed to produce dental hygienists who are both proficient and well prepared to take national, regional and state examinations.

To be admitted to the program, students must meet the following requirements:
• Be enrolled in, or admitted to WSU
• Have completed, or have plans to complete, the prerequisite requirements the spring semester before beginning the fall program

• Have an overall grade point average of at least 2.75 in all courses completed and no grade lower than a grade that generates 2.00 credit points per credit hour in any of the specified required courses
• Have submitted application materials by the established deadline

The degree completion program is available to registered dental hygienists who are looking to expand their role into such areas as community dental hygiene and education.

Those eligible for the program must have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and have a current license to practice. See wichita.edu/dhonline for curriculum information.

Hands-On Learning

In addition to taking classes, entry-level dental hygiene students at Wichita State have the opportunity to gain experience-based learning in the WSU Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation Dental Hygiene clinic——the state’s largest dental hygiene clinic for student education, which provides services to nearly 5,000 area residents each year. Beyond the on-campus clinic, Shockers have virtually unlimited opportunities to gain additional real-world experience thanks to WSU’s location in Kansas’ largest city and its status as the health care capital of the state.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

In addition to resources available through the WSU Office of Financial Aid, there are numerous scholarships available specifically for dental hygiene students. To find out more, and how you can apply, visit wichita.edu/chpscholarships and wichita.edu/financialaid.

Contact Information

For more information about the dental hygiene program at Wichita State, call (316) 978-3304 or email dentalhygiene@wichita.edu. You can also visit the department online at wichita.edu/dh.
Entry-Level Prerequisite Courses
- College English I - 3 credit hours
- College English II - 3 credit hours
- College Algebra - 3 credit hours
- Public Speaking - 3 credit hours
- Introduction to Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Introduction to Microbiology - 4 credit hours
- Human Anatomy and Physiology - 5 credit hours
- Introduction to Sociology - 3 credit hours
- General Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Principles of Dietetics and Nutrition - 3 credit hours
- Clinical Pharmacology - 3 credit hours
- Introduction to Computer and Applications - 3 credit hours*
- Medical Terminology - 2 or 3 credit hours
*or waiver

Professional Curriculum
- Preclinical Dental Hygiene - 5 credit hours
- Clinical Radiology - 4 credit hours
- Dental Hygiene Concepts I - 3 credit hours
- Clinical Dental Hygiene I - 3 credit hours
- General and Oral Pathology - 3 credit hours
- Oral Anatomy, Histology and Embryology - 3 credit hours
- Dental Materials - 3 credit hours
- Clinical Dental Hygiene II - 2 credit hours
- Dental Hygiene Concepts II - 3 credit hours
- Dental Hygiene Concepts III - 2 credit hours
- Ethics and Jurisprudence - 3 credit hours
- Community Oral Health Mgmt I - 3 credit hours
- Community Oral Health Mgmt II - 3 credit hours
- Introduction to Periodontics - 3 credit hours
- Pain Management - 2 credit hours
- Clinical Dental Hygiene III - 4 credit hours
- Clinical Dental Hygiene IV - 4 credit hours
- Evidence Based Practice - 2 credit hours
- Issues in Dental Hygiene - 2 credit hours
- Head and Neck Anatomy - 2 credit hours

Students must meet all Wichita State University general education and graduation requirements per the university catalog for the baccalaureate degree.

For more information
If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center
Office of Admissions
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124
wichita.edu/admissions
wichita.edu/visit

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For more information on Dental Hygiene at WSU visit wichita.edu/dh or call (316) 978-3304.