

DENTAL HYGIENE

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Center for Health Sciences at Lowry
CCD.edu/Dental

Dental Hygiene

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in dental hygiene prepares you to practice as a professional dental hygienist following successful completion of 28 credit hours of pre-professional prerequisites and 65-credit hours of professional study. After successful completion of the program, you will be eligible to take the written national board dental hygiene exam and regional/state clinical board exams. These exams are necessary to become a licensed, registered dental hygienist. Successful completion of the prerequisite courses and the full dental hygiene curriculum results in an A.A.S. in dental hygiene.

Dental hygienists are licensed preventive oral health professionals who provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services in dentistry. Dental hygienists perform procedures such as oral prophylaxis, application of preventive agents, exposure of dental radiographs, patient education and nutritional counseling. Career opportunities for hygienists are available in a variety of settings including private dental practices, community dental health clinics, public schools, clinical and basic science research laboratories, state and federal health facilities, and management positions.

Dental hygiene applications are available July 1st and must be submitted online no later than December 1st of each year to be considered for admission into the class beginning fall of the next academic year. Admission into the program is based upon a 100-point system, which consists of the following criteria:

- required dental hygiene prerequisites, which must consist of a minimum science GPA of a 3.0 (25 points) and a minimum general education GPA of a 2.5 (15 points),
- performance on the Health Occupational Aptitude Exam (15 points),
- letters of recommendation (5 points),
- hygienist observations (6 points),
- dental experience (4 points - In order to obtain 4 points, students must provide a copy of a dental assisting certificate or be employed more than 6 months at a dental office. Dental experience is not required.),
- interview with the application committee (25 points), and
- proof of Colorado residency (5 points).

Because of the competitive admissions process, all prerequisite courses must be taken for a letter grade. Once accepted into the program, all grading is conducted on a 7-point grade scale. A student cannot earn lower than a C in any Dental Hygiene course in order to progress to the next level or graduate.

All Dental Hygiene students should enter the program with basic computer skills to include, but not limited to, word processing, the creation of PowerPoint presentations, email, and use of D2L. You must have access to a computer as most of the faculty utilize email and D2L for communication.

To find out more information about the dental hygiene program and application process, visit CCD.edu/Dental.

Dental Hygiene Prerequisites

1. Dental hygiene science prerequisites must show a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and be current to within seven years of the date the program begins. (Grades for like course(s) taken within two years will be averaged.)
2. Dental hygiene education general prerequisites must show a cumulative GPA of 2.5. (Grades for like course(s) taken within two years will be averaged.)
3. Overall cumulative GPA (combination of general and science dental hygiene prerequisites) must not be lower than 2.8.
4. A college-level equivalent math course will be required: either MAT 120, MAT 121, MAT 135, or an Accuplacer score of 70+.

COURSE MAP

Course	Title	Credits
First Semester		
ENG 121	English Composition I: GT-CO1 ²	3
PSY 101	General Psychology I: GT-SS3 ³	3
Subtotal		6
Second Semester		
BIO 201	Human Anatomy & Physiology with Lab I: GT-SC1	4
BIO 204	Microbiology with Lab: GT-SC1 ⁴	4
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology I: GT-SS3 ⁵	3
Subtotal		11
Third Semester		
BIO 202	Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab: GT-SC1	4
CHE 109	General, Organic, and Biochemistry	4
COM 115	Public Speaking ⁶	3
Subtotal		11
Total Credits		28
Requirements		
Course Title Credits		
First Semester		
DEH 100	Dental Hygiene Basics and Terminology	1
Subtotal		1
Second Semester		
DEH 101	Preclinical Dental Hygiene Lecture	2
DEH 102	Preclinical Dental Hygiene Care	3
DEH 103	Dental Anatomy and Histology	3
DEH 104	Dental Radiology	3
DEH 111	Dental and Medical Emergencies	2
DEH 116	Preventive Dentistry and Special Needs Patients	2
DEH 123	Head & Neck Anatomy	1
Subtotal		16
Third Semester		
DEH 122	Periodontics I	2
DEH 126	Dental Materials	2
DEH 132	Applied Pharmacology	2
DEH 153	Clinical Theory of Dental Hygiene I	2
DEH 170	Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene I	4
DEH 213	General and Oral Pathology	3
Subtotal		15
Fourth Semester		
DEH 133	Local Anesthesia	2
DEH 138	Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Sedation	1
DEH 150	Dental Lasers: Theory and Practice	1
DEH 171	Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene I-A	2
Subtotal		6
Fifth Semester		
DEH 202	Applied Nutrition in Dentistry	2
DEH 204	Community Dental Health I	2
DEH 242	Periodontics II	2
DEH 268	Clinical Theory of Dental Hygiene II	2
DEH 270	Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene II	6
Subtotal		14
Sixth Semester		
DEH 221	Ethics and Practice Management	2
DEH 225	Community Dental Health II	1
DEH 271	Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene III	7
DEH 282	Periodontics III	1
DEH 285	Clinical Theory of Dental Hygiene III	2
DEH 266	National Boards Review(Optional)	
Subtotal		13
Total Credits		65

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED FOR THE DEGREE: 93 CREDITS

- 1 The DEH 100 course is taken after acceptance into the program the summer prior to the first semester.
- 2 ENG 122 can be substituted.
- 3 PSY 102, PSY 226, PSY 235, or PSY 240 can be substituted if already completed prior to admission.
- 4 BIO 208 can be substituted if already taken prior to admission.
- 5 SOC 102, SOC 218, or ANT 101 can be substituted if already taken prior to admission.
- 6 COM 125 or COM 126 can be substituted if already taken prior to admission.

Bachelor of Applied Science Degree

Center for Health Sciences
CCD.edu/Dental-BAS

Dental Hygiene

Offered completely online, the Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree in dental hygiene is a degree-completion program. The program is designed to allow registered dental hygienists (RDH) an avenue to advance their dental hygiene education and increase their employment options. The RDH to B.A.S program will expand career options for individuals currently holding a certificate or associate degree in dental hygiene. The program offers flexibility in scheduling and the ability to continue working while advancing your education and ultimately your career opportunities.

Admission to the B.A.S. program requires an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), or certificate in dental hygiene from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental hygiene program from which Community College of Denver (CCD) will accept transfer credits.** Candidates for the B.A.S. degree program will decide where they would like to place the emphasis of their coursework. Candidates can choose either public health or clinical teaching/education. Regardless of the path chosen, the coursework and internship experiences will facilitate the development of skills in administration, planning, leadership and research.

**CCD will accept transfer credit from post-secondary institutions accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations. Credits earned at nationally accredited or unaccredited institutions may be transferable to CCD on a case-by-case basis.

Dental hygienists who have earned a B.A.S. in dental hygiene may be employed in a variety of settings beyond the traditional private practice dental setting. Career opportunities are expanded and can include community dental health clinics, public schools, clinical and basic science research laboratories, state and federal health facilities, office management, dental hygiene education, sales and marketing representatives, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Bachelor degree trained dental hygienists can develop program plans for public health institutions and organizations, participate in research, educate entry-level dental hygiene students and community groups, be employed within dental sales, medical sales, marketing organizations and consulting firms. Dental hygienists with an entrepreneurial spirit can develop their own unique niche to support dentistry and dental hygiene through continuing education, practice management and publications.

Applications for the B.A.S. in dental hygiene program are available beginning February 1st. There is one application cycle per year. A maximum of 25 individuals who meet the following criteria will be accepted into the B.A.S. program. Applications will close once 25 students have been accepted into the program.

- Satisfactory completion of all CCD general admissions criteria and admittance to CCD.
- Completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited A.A., A.A.S., or certificate in dental hygiene, including 90 credit hours that can be accepted into Community College of Denver for transfer credit.
- A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in all transferring dental hygiene degree coursework and dental hygiene prerequisite courses.
- Dental hygiene licensure: You must have an active license to practice dental hygiene in at least one state within the United States.
- Two letters of recommendation.

- Proof of Colorado residency or residency within a state under the WICHE Reciprocity Agreement.
- Completion of a writing sample. Specific directions and criteria for the writing sample will be provided with the application materials.

BAS Degree Dental Hygiene Prerequisites

Before applying, you must meet the prerequisites for this program.

- Graduation from a CODA Accredited Dental Hygiene Program.*
 - Unofficial transcripts from your A.A., A.A.S., or certificate dental hygiene program, including prerequisite dental hygiene coursework, must be submitted with your application for evaluation and review.
- Satisfactory completion of all CCD general admissions criteria.
- Current dental hygiene licensure to practice within the United States.
- A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in all transferring dental hygiene degree coursework and dental hygiene prerequisite courses.
- Basic computer skills are necessary, including proficiency in Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word, communication via email, and use of the Internet.
- Ready access to a computer with a stable Internet connection is mandatory as all coursework will be completed online.
- Attend an orientation session on campus approximately one month prior to the start of the fall semester.

COURSE MAP

Course	Title	Credits
First Semester		
DEH 301	Advanced Careers in Dental Hygiene	3
DEH 302	Research Methodologies	3
DEH 341	Clinical Teaching Methodologies	3
DEH 476	Diversity & Cultural Rsrch I	1
DEH 355	Social Issues in Oral Health	3
Subtotal		13
Second Semester		
DEH 411	Teaching Methodologies	4
DEH 482	Public Health Internship II	
DEH 387	Leadership & Administration	3
DEH 478	Diversity & Cultural Rsrch II	3
Subtotal		10
Third Semester		
MAT 135	Intro to Statistics: GT-MA1	3
Subtotal		3
Total Credits		26

- 1 AAS General Education Credits can be from the following prefixes:
ANT, BIO, CHE, COM, ENG, PSY, or SOC
- 2 Choose 15 credits from the following:
DEH 325 Advanced Concepts in Oral Health Promotion and Community Planning I
DEH 341 Clinical Teaching Methods
DEH 345 Advanced Dental Nutrition
DEH 387 Leadership and Administration
DEH 411 Teaching Methods
DEH 430 Oral Health Promotion II
DEH 476 Diversity & Cultural Research I
DEH 478 Diversity & Cultural Research II
DEH 481 Internship I
DEH 482 Internship II
DEH 489 Capstone: Dental Hygiene
- 3 Choose up to 5 credits from the following (General electives at the 100/200 level can be taken to supplement dental hygiene entry level education when credits are less than 65 credit hours. These courses may not be substituted for 300/400 level coursework.)
ANT 101 Cultural Anthropology: GT-SS3
ASL 121 American Sign Language I
COM 126 Communication in Healthcare
SPA 115 Spanish for the Professional I

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED FOR THE DEGREE: 120 CREDITS

NOTE: A minimum of 24 credit hours must be taken at the 300/400 level from BAS dental hygiene courses. A minimum of 30 credit hours in residence at Community College of Denver is required to earn the Bachelor of Applied Science in dental hygiene.