

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Overview

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree requires nine semesters of study including three semesters of coursework in the basic sciences and general education, which precede admission into the program. In the spring semester of the second year, students will begin taking the dental hygiene courses. The program is designed to prepare students as clinical dental hygienists and to pursue other possible career options such as education, public health, and research. Prospective students complete educational requirements that provide a broad academic background while attaining comprehensive dental hygiene knowledge and clinical experience.

At the end of the fourth year of the program, students are eligible to take state, regional and national board examinations. Upon successful completion of these comprehensive written and clinical examinations, the graduate may apply for a license to practice dental hygiene in the state as a registered dental hygienist.

The registered dental hygienist is a licensed professional who provides dental hygiene treatment and related preventive services. Clinical skills of the hygienist include:

- the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide
- recording medical and dental histories
- exposing and interpreting radiographs
- making study models
- performing extra-oral and intra-oral examinations which include cancer screenings; preliminary dental charting and periodontal evaluations
- scaling and root planning
- polishing
- patient education and dietary management
- placing sealants
- administering fluoride therapy

Many states permit the hygienist to perform additional duties such as placing temporary restorative materials.

The dental hygienist also functions as a dental health educator and is responsible for the preventive dental health program in private dental practices as well as in other settings. The hygienist teaches patients proper oral health care in order to reduce oral diseases and disorders.

The hygienist's role in service to the community may include increasing public awareness of oral health, serving as a resource person to school systems, providing screenings to children or various groups, and making visits to nursing homes, hospitals and/or schools for the mentally or physically handicapped.

Accreditation

The dental hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

Current accreditation standing: Approval without Reporting Requirements.

Date of last campus visit: 2025

Next campus visit: 2032

The Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

(312) 440-2500

<https://coda.ada.org/en>

Admission to the Program

Admission to the University provides students with the opportunity to complete a core of pre-dental hygiene courses. All students must complete and/or be registered for all of the pre-dental hygiene courses (the first year fall semester, the first year spring semester, and the second year fall semester) after which they may apply and compete for a position in the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program. *Please note that due to limited clinical capacity and available resources, admission to the university and completion of the pre-dental hygiene courses does not guarantee admission to the program.* The courses in **BOLD** on the Admission Policy document will be used in the calculation of the student's pre-dental hygiene GPA which will be used in ranking students.

Admitted students who voluntarily withdraw from the Dental Hygiene Program will be allowed to reapply only one additional time. This is enforced in fairness to other applicants.

A criminal background check which includes fingerprinting for the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI & I) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is required for licensure in Ohio. If a student has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor related to substance abuse or a crime involving moral turpitude, licensure may be denied by the Ohio State Dental Board. For further information regarding licensure and the results of fingerprinting call the Ohio State Dental Board at (614) 466-2580.

Students can access Transferology (<https://www.transferology.com/>), a free web-based source where they can find accurate information regarding courses that transfer and apply to a degree program.

Prospective students must complete a minimum of 12 hours of observation of a registered dental hygienist in two separate dental offices or clinics. Observation forms are available on the Dental Hygiene website. Each prospective student must complete the forms and will need to scan and save these forms as a PDF file and upload them as part of their application submission.

New, Current, Former, and Transfer Students

Students must apply and compete for conditional acceptance into the dental hygiene program by September 1 for spring semester admittance. Rankings for admission will include a minimum GPA of 2.70, in the bolded courses (see Admissions Policy) and a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or greater. ALL pre-dental hygiene courses must be completed with a "C" or better at the end of the fall semester of the second year (as outlined below).

Current Students

Current students must apply by September 1 for spring semester admittance. All necessary reports, transcripts and observation hours must be received by September 1. If all requirements are met, the candidate will receive a personalized application link. No applications will be considered after this deadline.

New, Transfer, and Former YSU Students

New, transfer, and former YSU students must first apply and be admitted to the University by completing the undergraduate admissions form and indicating dental hygiene as the intended major.

Submit transcripts from each of the post secondary institutions and high school(s) attended. Transcripts of any academic work being completed during the academic year of the requested admission date must be submitted to YSU

Admissions Office by September 1. No applications will be considered after this deadline.

Observation Requirement

All prospective students must complete a minimum of 12 hours of observation of a registered dental hygienist in at least two separate dental offices or dental clinics. Students must dress appropriately. Do not wear shorts, jeans, tennis shoes, flip-flops or other unprofessional clothing. Hair must be pulled away from the face, and make-up and perfume should be moderately applied. Observation forms are available on the [Dental Hygiene](#) website. Each prospective student must complete the forms and will need to scan and save these forms as a PDF file and upload them as part of their application submission.

Factors affecting admission will include:

1. Pre-Dental Hygiene G.P.A.
2. Cumulative G.P.A.
3. All Pre-Dental Hygiene courses completed with a "C" or better by the end of the fall semester.
4. Number of repetitions of **BOLD** pre-dental hygiene courses (as indicated in Section A).
5. As the number of repetitions increases, the likelihood of being admitted decreases. Applicants will have within the last five years, no more than two repeated classes in all the pre-dental hygiene courses. A repeated course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better and all incompletes must be removed before beginning the dental hygiene curriculum.
6. Satisfactory completion of the dental hygiene observation forms.

Upon receiving admission to the Dental Hygiene Program, and as a condition of admission, students must show satisfactory evidence of the following:

1. Current CPR/BLS certification
2. Completed physical and dental exams
3. Proof of required immunization requirements

Program Administrator

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COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
FIRST YEAR REQUIREMENT -STUDENT SUCCESS		
YSU 1500	Success Seminar	1-2
or YSU 1500S	Youngstown State University Success Seminar	
or HONR 1500	Intro to Honors	
General Education Requirements		
ENGL 1550	Writing 1	3-4
or ENGL 1549	Writing 1 with Support	
ENGL 1551	Writing 2	3
Mathematics Requirement		
MATH 2623	Quantitative Reasoning	3-6
or MATH 2623C	Quantitative Reasoning with Co-Requisite Support	
or STAT 2625	Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning	
or STAT 2625C	Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning with Co-Requisite Support	
Arts and Humanities (6 s.h.)		
PHIL 2625	Introduction to Professional Ethics (required for major)	3
HIST 2650	CL History of American Democracy	3
Natural Sciences		

CHEM 1510 & 1510L	Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences and Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences Laboratory	4
BIOL 1551	Anatomy and Physiology 1	3
BIOL 1551L	Anatomy and Physiology 1 Laboratory	1
Social Science (6 s.h.)		
PSYC 1560	General Psychology (required for major)	3
SOC 1500	Introduction to Sociology (required for major)	3
General Education Elective (9 s.h.)		
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations (required for major)	3
Suggested courses to meet the 6 s.h. requirement		
FNUT 1551	Normal Nutrition	
PHLT 1568	Healthy Lifestyles	
Required Support Courses		
BIOL 1552 & 1552L	Anatomy and Physiology 2 and Anatomy and Physiology 2 Laboratory	4
BIOL 1560	Microbiology for the Health Professions	2
BIOL 1560L	Microbiology Laboratory for Health Professions	1
Major Requirements		
DHYG 2601	Dental Hygiene 1	3
DHYG 2601L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 1	2
DHYG 2620	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
DHYG 2620L	Head and Neck Anatomy Lab	1
DHYG 2630	Management of Medical/Dental Emergencies	2
DHYG 2602	Dental Hygiene 2	2
DHYG 2602L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 2	2
DHYG 2640	Oral Histology	2
DHYG 3703	Dental Hygiene 3	3
DHYG 3703L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 3	3
DHYG 3750	Oral Pathology	2
DHYG 3760	Dental Radiology	3
DHYG 3760L	Dental Radiology Lab	1
DHYG 3770	Periodontology	3
AHLT 4805	Health Education for Allied Health	3
DHYG 3704	Dental Hygiene 4	3
DHYG 3704L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 4	3
DHYG 3780	Pharmacology	3
DHYG 3790	Local Anesthesia and Pain Control for Dental Hygienists	2
DHYG 3790L	Local Anesthesia and Pain Control Clinic	1
AHLT 4806	Research Methods	3
DHYG 4805	Dental Hygiene 5	3
DHYG 4805L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 5	4
DHYG 4830	Dental Materials	1
DHYG 4830L	Dental Materials Lab	1
DHYG 4840	Directed Dental Hygiene Research	3
DHYG 4845	Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist	3
DHYG 4845L	Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist Lab	1
DHYG 4806	Dental Hygiene 6	2
DHYG 4806L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 6	4
DHYG 4850L	Community Clinicals	1
DHYG 4850	Dental Public Health	2
DHYG 4860	Ethics and Practice Concepts	2
DHYG 4855L	Expanded Functions Clinical	2
Total Semester Hours		124-129

Year 1			
Fall			S.H.
ENGL 1550 or ENGL 1549	Writing 1 or Writing 1 with Support	3-4	
YSU 1500 or YSU 1500S or HONR 1500	Success Seminar or Youngstown State University Success Seminar or Intro to Honors	1-2	
BIOL 1551 & 1551L	Anatomy and Physiology 1 and Anatomy and Physiology 1 Laboratory	4	
PSYC 1560	General Psychology	3	
MATH 2623 or MATH 2623C or STAT 2625 or STAT 2625C	Quantitative Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning with Co- Requisite Support or Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning or Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning with Co-Requisite Support	3-6	
Semester Hours		14-19	
Spring			
ENGL 1551	Writing 2	3	
BIOL 1552 & 1552L	Anatomy and Physiology 2 and Anatomy and Physiology 2 Laboratory	4	
CHEM 1510 & 1510L	Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences and Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences Laboratory	4	
General Education Elective		3	
Semester Hours		14	
Year 2			
Fall			
PHIL 2625	Introduction to Professional Ethics	3	
SOC 1500	Introduction to Sociology	3	
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations	3	
HIST 2650	CL History of American Democracy	3	
BIOL 1560 & 1560L	Microbiology for the Health Professions and Microbiology Laboratory for Health Professions	3	
Semester Hours		15	
Spring			
DHYG 2601	Dental Hygiene 1	3	
DHYG 2601L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 1	2	
DHYG 2620	Head and Neck Anatomy	2	
DHYG 2620L	Head and Neck Anatomy Lab	1	
DHYG 2630	Management of Medical/Dental Emergencies	2	
General Education Elective		3	
Semester Hours		13	
Summer			
DHYG 2602	Dental Hygiene 2	2	
DHYG 2602L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 2	2	
DHYG 2640	Oral Histology	2	
Semester Hours		6	
Year 3			
Fall			
DHYG 3703	Dental Hygiene 3	3	
DHYG 3703L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 3	3	
DHYG 3750	Oral Pathology	2	
DHYG 3760	Dental Radiology	3	
DHYG 3760L	Dental Radiology Lab	1	
DHYG 3770	Periodontology	3	
AHLT 4805	Health Education for Allied Health	3	
Semester Hours		18	
Spring			
DHYG 3704	Dental Hygiene 4	3	
DHYG 3704L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 4	3	
DHYG 3780	Pharmacology	3	
DHYG 3790	Local Anesthesia and Pain Control for Dental Hygienists	2	
DHYG 3790L	Local Anesthesia and Pain Control Clinic	1	
AHLT 4806	Research Methods	3	
Semester Hours		15	
Year 4			
Fall			
DHYG 4805	Dental Hygiene 5	3	
DHYG 4805L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 5	4	
DHYG 4830	Dental Materials	1	
DHYG 4830L	Dental Materials Lab	1	
DHYG 4840	Directed Dental Hygiene Research	3	
DHYG 4845	Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist	3	
DHYG 4845L	Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist Lab	1	
Semester Hours		16	
Spring			
DHYG 4806	Dental Hygiene 6	2	
DHYG 4806L	Clinical Dental Hygiene 6	4	
DHYG 4850	Dental Public Health	2	
DHYG 4850L	Community Clinicals	1	
DHYG 4860	Ethics and Practice Concepts	2	
DHYG 4855L	Expanded Functions Clinical	2	
Semester Hours		13	
Total Semester Hours		124-129	

Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes for the dental hygiene program are as follows:

- The graduates will be competent in resolving professional and ethical issues utilizing effective communication and critical thinking skills.
- The graduates will be competent in providing patient education programs and community service to diverse populations.
- The graduates will be competent in performing clinical skills necessary to achieve and maintain the oral health of their patients.
- The graduates will be competent in analyzing current research and in conducting original research.