

DENTAL HYGIENE - DEGREE

Limited Entry, Associate of Applied Science Degree Program | mhcc.edu/
DentalHygiene (<http://mhcc.edu/DentalHygiene/>)

Prerequisite Advising

Academic Advising & Transfer Center: 503-491-7315 | Room AC2253 (Student Services) | Advising.Questions@mhcc.edu
(Advising.Questions@mhcc.edu)

Faculty Adviser

Jennifer Aubry: 503-491-7128 | Room AC2726 | Jennifer.Aubry@mhcc.edu

The Dental Hygiene program at MHCC is seven terms in length. Students will complete classes in basic and dental sciences, such as: dental hygiene therapy, oral anatomy, pathology, and expanded functions, which includes sealants, temporary crowns, local anesthesia and restorations. Students will also complete many hours of training to prepare for work in the clinical setting.

During the program, students also take the National and Regional Board exams. Students who complete the program and exams can apply for a license to practice. Dental hygienists that want to expand their career options can transfer their MHCC courses to complete a bachelor's degree.

Program Outcomes

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Develop appropriate decision making skills and utilize professional judgment, conduct and ethics to provide optimum patient care
- Effectively assess, diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate, and document current dental hygiene services
- Promote innovative approaches to problem solving and critical thinking that stimulate independence and responsibility
- Work effectively with diverse populations as members of the health care team
- Actively participate and lead in community activities and professional associations

It is highly recommended students meet with an adviser in **general advising** when selecting Health Professions limited and restricted Program prerequisites. Four credits of a mathematics course (MTH065 Beginning Algebra II ★ or higher) with a grade of "C" or higher must be transcribed before graduation, bringing the degree total to 93 credits.

Statement to Applicants Regarding Exposure to Bloodborne and other Infectious Diseases

Dental hygienists are professionals who practice direct patient care and are therefore potentially exposed to a number of serious infections and bloodborne disease pathogens. Among these are hepatitis viruses, influenza, and HIV infection. The program curriculum includes in-depth study of disease transmission and comprehensive preventive practices in order to ensure students, patients, faculty and supervising dentists are as safe from exposure as possible.

The program follows up-to-date CDC, OSHA, and OSAP requirements in all aspects of lab and clinical care, and has an excellent record of exposure prevention. Prior to program entry, all students must comply with health and safety guidelines which include vaccination and/or proof of immunity

(positive titer) to hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chickenpox). Program faculty and dentists are required to maintain current immunizations as well. Should an exposure occur, the program and the college supports the student in testing and follow up care per current CDC and OSHA guidelines.

Exceptions to immunization requirements are very rare; any concerns must be discussed with the program director as early as possible.

Employment Opportunities/Personal Aptitude

Areas of employment open to dental hygienists include private dental offices or clinics, industrial dental programs, public health, etc.

Salaries vary and are commensurate with experience and scope of responsibilities. Opportunities for dental hygienists are excellent. The personal requirements necessary to succeed as a dental hygienist begin with a strong belief in the importance of good oral health and include an aptitude for the biological sciences. Of prime importance are manual dexterity, critical thinking skills, high ethical standards, a genuine interest in science and an ability to work with people.

Please note: All courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better, and all core (DH) courses must be completed within 5 years of starting the program.

First Quarter

Fall		Credits
DH111	Introduction to Dental Hygiene	3
DH112	Principles of Clinical Dental Hygiene ¹	3
DH113	Dental/Oral Anatomy ★	2
DH114	Oral Microbiology	2
DH115	Professionalism and Cultural Competency	1
Health and Physical Education requirement (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		1

Credits 12

Second Quarter

Winter		
DH121	Dental Hygiene Clinical Theory I	2
DH122	Dental Hygiene Clinic I ²	3
DH123	Oral Histology and Embryology ★	2
DH124	Oral Radiology I	3
DH125	General Pathology ★ ³	3
Health and Physical Education requirement (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		1

Credits 14

Third Quarter

Spring		
DH131	Dental Hygiene Clinical Theory II	1
DH132	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	3
DH134	Oral Radiology II	2
DH135	Oral Pathology	2
DH136	Pharmacology	3
DH137	Head and Neck Anatomy	4

Credits 15

Fourth Quarter**Summer**

DH213	Expanded Functions	1
DH215	Dental Materials	3
DH219	Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation	1
Credits		5

Fifth Quarter**Fall**

DH211	Dental Hygiene Clinical Theory III ★	2
DH212	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	5
DH214	Periodontology for Dental Hygienists I	2
DH216	Community Dental Health	2
DH217	Local Anesthesia	2
DH218	Introduction to Restorative Dentistry ⁴	2
Credits		15

Sixth Quarter**Winter**

DH221	Dental Hygiene Clinical Theory IV ★	2
DH222	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	5
DH223	Public Health and Dental Research	2
DH224	Periodontology for Dental Hygienists II	2
DH225	Restorative Dentistry Lab ⁴	1
Health and Physical Education requirement (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		1
Credits		13

Seventh Quarter**Spring**

DH231	Dental Hygiene Clinical Theory V ★	2
DH232	Dental Hygiene Clinic V	5
DH233	Ethics and Jurisprudence ★	1
DH234	Practice Management and Dental Hygiene Issues	2
DH235	Restorative Dentistry Clinic ⁴	3
Select one of the following:		3
SOC204	General Sociology: Principles of Sociology ★	
SOC205	General Sociology: Social Institutions ★	
SOC206	General Sociology: Social Problems ★	
Credits		16
Total Credits		90

Math and Writing are also required for this degree, but need to be taken before starting the program. MTH065 Beginning Algebra II ★ (or higher) + WR121Z Composition I ★ + 89 credits above = **97 degree credits**.

¹ Students are required to submit a medical history and sign a consent form to participate in partner practice, including but not limited to: instrumentation, nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation, and local anesthesia.

² All students are required to participate in a background check and drug testing prior to attending clinical rotations.

³ The program offers DH125 General Pathology ★ via distance learning, and reserves the right to offer other courses via distance learning.

⁴ Students may not opt out of DH218 Introduction to Restorative Dentistry, DH225 Restorative Dentistry Lab, or DH235 Restorative Dentistry Clinic.

Exploring **dental hygiene** as your major? Learn more with MHCC's Career Coach (<https://mhcc.lightcastcc.com/programs/dental-hygiene-degree/209250/?region=Greater%20Multnomah%20County%20Area&radius=100%20miles>), which covers: skills needed for each career, wages, employment rates, and live job postings in the Greater Multnomah County Area.

Admission Requirements

Information sessions are offered on a regular basis and details about time and location are listed in the application packets and on the website. Once you have read the application materials and attended an information session, you may email LRAdmissions@mhcc.edu if you have questions about the admission process.

For a list of prerequisite courses prior to applying for and entering the Dental Hygiene program, please see [mhcc.edu/DentalHygieneProgramDetails](http://www.mhcc.edu/DentalHygieneProgramDetails) (<http://www.mhcc.edu/DentalHygieneProgramDetails/>) for the most current information. **This information can be subject to change; it is the student's responsibility to verify completion of appropriate prerequisite courses.**

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