

# Dental Hygiene

As a dental hygienist, you will be an important asset to the dental office. You will help patients maintain healthy teeth and gums by cleaning and polishing teeth and removing stains, tartar and plaque. You will take X-rays of teeth, teach patients to have good oral hygiene and perform various other preventative dental care functions, such as applying cavity-preventative agents like fluoride and sealants.

In some states dental hygienists can administer anesthetics, place and carve filling materials and periodontal dressings, and remove sutures.



Trusted. Respected. Preferred.

# Dental Hygiene Course Outline

Semester I					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
CCM 145	Communications and Composition	30			2.0
BIO 115	Anatomy and Physiology	45	30		4.0
BIO 145	Microbiology and Immunology	45			3.0
PSY 125	Psychology	30			2.0
SOC 110	Sociology	30			2.0
<b>Semester I Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>13.0</b>

Semester II					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
CHM 125	Chemistry/Biochemistry	45			3.0
RDH 186	Dental Anatomy	45			3.0
RDH 105	Introduction to Dental Hygiene	30	15		2.5
RDH 106	Head and Neck Anatomy	30			2.0
RDH 107	Nutrition and Oral Health	30			2.0
<b>Semester II Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>12.5</b>

Semester III					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 110	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	45	90		6.0
RDH 118	Medical Emergencies	15			1.0
RDH 211	Radiology	30	45		3.5
RDH 218	Periodontics	45			3.0
<b>Semester III Total</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>135</b>		<b>13.5</b>

Semester IV					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 161	Dental Hygiene I	45			3.0
RDH 162	Clinical Dental Hygiene I			150	3.0
RDH 219	Biomaterials	30	30		3.0
RDH 220	General/Oral Pathology	45			3.0
RDH 260	Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	45			3.0
<b>Semester IV Total</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>15.0</b>

Semester V					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 171	Dental Hygiene II	45			3.0
RDH 172	Clinical Dental Hygiene II			180	4.0
RDH 214	Patient/Pain Management	30	45		3.5
RDH 216	Treatment of Special Needs Patients	30			2.0
RDH 217	Community and Dental Health Promotion	45			3.0
<b>Semester V Total</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>15.5</b>

Semester VI					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 221	Dental Hygiene III	30			2.0
RDH 222	Clinical Dental Hygiene III			180	4.0
RDH 226	Review of Dental Hygiene	45			3.0
RDH 291	Principles of Dental Hygiene Practice	30			2.0
RDH 292	Ethical Decision-Making	15			1.0
<b>Semester VI Total</b>		<b>120</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>12.0</b>

**Program Totals**      **930**      **255**      **510**      **81.5**

# What You Will Learn

As a student in Pima Medical Institute's Dental Hygiene program, you'll learn skills necessary to become a successful entry-level dental hygienist, including radiography, oral pathology, periodontics, and patient management of diverse populations. You will also build solid communications skills and develop a strong foundation in dental materials and anatomy and physiology.

## Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than average for all occupations. The demand for dental services will increase as the population ages and as research continues to link oral health to overall health.\*\*

## Employment

The majority of dental hygienists work part time and nearly all are employed in dentist offices. A small number may work for employment services, in physicians' offices or in other industries.

## Certification

Dental hygienists are required to be licensed in the state where they practice. Nearly all states require that dental hygienists graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass national and regional written and clinical examinations administered by the American Dental Association's Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and by state or regional testing agencies.

\*\*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Dental Hygienists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm> (visited October 05, 2021).



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