

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 165	Communications & Composition	45			3.0
BIO 110	Anatomy & Physiology	60			4.0
BIO 145	Microbiology & Immunology	45			3.0
RDH 101	Introduction to Dental Hygiene	30			2.0
RDH 186	Dental Anatomy	45			3.0
Semester I Total		225			15.0

Semester II					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
CHM 125	Chemistry/Biochemistry	45			3.0
RDH 106	Head & Neck Anatomy	30			2.0
RDH 118	Medical Emergencies	15			1.0
RDH 117	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	45		90	5.0
RDH 211	Radiology	30	45		3.5
Semester II Total		165	45	90	14.5

Semester III					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 151	Dental Hygiene I	30	30		3.0
RDH 156	Clinical Dental Hygiene I			116	2.5
RDH 219	Biomaterials	30	30		3.0
RDH 218	Periodontics	45			3.0
RDH 260	Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	45			3.0
Semester III Total		150	60	116	14.5

Semester IV					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
PSY 125	Psychology	30			2.0
RDH 176	Dental Hygiene II	45			3.0
RDH 181	Clinical Dental Hygiene II			116	2.5
RDH 214	Patient/Pain Management	30	45		3.5
RDH 220	General/Oral Pathology	45			3.0
Semester IV Total		150	45	116	14.0

Semester V					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
SOC 110	Sociology	30			2.0
RDH 201	Dental Hygiene III	45			3.0
RDH 206	Clinical Dental Hygiene III			172	3.5
RDH 209	Nutrition & Cariology	30			2.0
RDH 252	Community & Public Dental Health I	30			2.0
Semester V Total		135		172	12.5

Semester VI					
Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
RDH 226	Review of Dental Hygiene	45			3.0
RDH 253	Community & Public Dental Health II	30			2.0
RDH 241	Dental Hygiene IV	30			2.0
RDH 246	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV			172	3.5
RDH 291	Principles of Dental Hygiene Practice	30			2.0
Semester VI Total		135		172	12.5

Program Totals		960	150	666	83.0
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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 9 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 16,400 openings for dental hygienists are projected each year, on average, over the decade.**

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, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm> (visited January 11, 2025).



- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services