DENTAL HYGIENE MAJOR, B.S.

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The dental hygienist is an educator and motivator as well as a health care provider. As a practicing member of the dental health team, the hygienist is primarily concerned with the maintenance of oral health and the prevention of dental disease. Additionally, dental hygienists may assume professional leadership roles; participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of community health programs; engage in research activities; or serve as consultants and assume managerial roles in certain types of dental care delivery systems.

Students are subject to the academic requirements in place when they are admitted to the dental hygiene program; consequently, the requirements described in this catalog particularly apply to students admitted to the school during the 2016–2017 academic year.

Admission (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/schools-college/dentistry/#admissiontext) to the program is required.

All course descriptions can be found in ConnectCarolina and in the UNC School of Dentistry Academic Catalog (http://dentistry.unc.edu).

Department Programs
Major
- Dental Hygiene Major, B.S. (p. 1)

Certificate
- Certificate in Dental Hygiene (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/certificate-dental-hygiene)

Graduate Programs
- M.S. in Dental Hygiene Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Endodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Operative Dentistry (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- Ph.D. in Oral Biology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Orthodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Pediatric Dentistry (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Periodontology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)
- M.S. in Prosthodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programstext)

Requirements
All baccalaureate-seeking dental hygiene students must fulfill the General Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) requirements. In addition to completing ENGL 105, a foreign language through level 3, a quantitative reasoning course (STOR 151 recommended), and a lifetime fitness course, dental hygiene students must fulfill the Approaches requirements and successfully complete at least five Connections courses, including global issues, experiential education, and U.S. diversity. Other specific requirements include the following courses:

- BIOL 105 Introduction to Biochemistry \(^1\) 4
- or CHEM 101 General Descriptive Chemistry I & 101L and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I
- BIOL 108 Introduction to Biochemistry 4
- or CHEM 102 General Descriptive Chemistry II & 102L and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory II
- Select one of the following: 3-5
  - BIOL 252 Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology
  - EXSS 276 Human Physiology
  - PHYI 292 Introduction to Physiology
- Select one of the following: 3
  - COMM 100 Communication and Social Process
  - COMM 113 Public Speaking \(^2\)
  - COMM 120 Introduction to Interpersonal and Organizational Communication \(^H\)
- MCRO 251 Introductory Medical Microbiology 4
- or MCRO 255 Elementary Pathogenic Microbiology
- PSYC 101 General Psychology \(^3\) 3
- SOCI 101 Sociological Perspectives \(^4\), \(^H\) 3
- or SOCI 111 Human Societies

\(^H\) Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

\(^1\) CHEM 101/CHEM 101L satisfies the physical and life sciences with laboratory Approaches requirement.

\(^2\) COMM 113 satisfies the communication intensive Connections requirement.

\(^3\) satisfies the physical and life sciences Approaches requirement

\(^4\) Both courses satisfy the social and behavioral sciences Approaches requirement.

Dental Hygiene Professional School Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year Fall Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBIO 741</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 241</td>
<td>Dental Radiology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 252</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Additional Information for the Dental Hygiene Programs

Upon provisional acceptance into the dental hygiene program, all students must provide an acceptable criminal background check and documentation of required immunizations, as well as varicella vaccine series and/or a positive quantitative titer, hepatitis B series (three shots) and a positive quantitative titer, and the two-step tuberculosis skin test (TST). The two skin tests must be taken within a 12-month period.

Specific information is provided in the School of Dentistry Academic Catalog (http://www.dentistry.unc.edu/academic).

One of the consequences of the delivery of health care is the possibility of contracting infectious disease such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, herpes, or HIV. To minimize this risk, the UNC School of Dentistry has adopted an infectious control policy that requires wearing a clinical overgarment, protective safety eyewear, disposable gloves, and a mask when oral examinations and dental hygiene services are being provided.

Dental school fees are required that include instrument rental and other supplies needed for clinical care and the education of patients. Additional costs may occur for projects required in the curriculum.

Special Opportunities in Dental Hygiene

Departmental Involvement
Students are eligible to become members of the student American Dental Hygienists’ Association, American Dental Education Association, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and other specialty organizations. Student membership fees may be required.

Experiential Education
Students have the opportunity to participate in community-based clinical experiences as well as providing oral hygiene programs in the community. Service-learning opportunities are possible as an elective. Each semester students will be involved with hands-on experiences providing dental hygiene services. During the final semester of dental hygiene, students will participate in a three-week practicum. Due to the location of community sites, undergraduate students may need access to transportation. Expenses for travel are the responsibility of the student.

Licensure
Certificate and baccalaureate degree graduates are eligible for dental hygiene licensure examinations at the state and national levels. Candidates must pass both the national and clinical board examinations in order to be granted a license to practice dental hygiene. Additional costs are associated with the examinations required for licensure. Some dental hygiene licensure examinations require background checks with fingerprint analysis.

Accreditation
The dental hygiene program’s accreditation status is approval without reporting requirements as determined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Undergraduate Awards
Dental hygiene students are eligible for awards through the Spurgeon Dental Society in the School of Dentistry and the Dental Foundation of North Carolina. In addition, student awards are also available through the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American Dental Education Association, and other specialty organizations.

Undergraduate Research
Research opportunities are available at the undergraduate level for dental hygiene students. Students are encouraged to become involved in research activities pertaining to dental hygiene and dentistry. Student research grants are available through the University, professional organizations, and private industry.