



Program Planning Guide

Dental Hygiene Associate in Applied Science Degree (A45260)

Program Length: 5 Semesters

Program Sites: Lee Main Campus seated only

The Dental Hygiene curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to access, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene care for the individual and the community.

Students will learn to prepare the operatory, take patient histories, note abnormalities, plan care, teach oral hygiene, clean teeth, take x-rays, apply preventive agents, complete necessary chart entries, and perform other procedures related to dental hygiene care.

Graduates of this program may be eligible to take national and state/regional examinations for licensure which are required to practice dental hygiene. Employment opportunities include dental offices, clinics, schools, public health agencies, industry, and professional education.

Limited Enrollment Application Overview:

The Dental Hygiene (DH) program is a limited-enrollment program, which means that there are a limited number of seats in this program each year. Students must meet all requirements listed below to enter the DH program. While they are completing these requirements, pre-DH Students will be enrolled in the **Pre-Dental Hygiene program (A55280DH)**. Acceptance will be reviewed from November 1 to May 15, and students will be notified of acceptance through email by May 15 each year.

DH Admission Requirements:

- Complete 25 credit hours of Pre-DH general education courses (see page 2).
- Complete BIO 163, BIO 175, and CHM 130/CHM 130A with a B or better.
- Complete all other general education courses with a C or better.
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA based on 28 credit hours of DH general education courses.
- Attend a mandatory, in-person program orientation before beginning the program. The date will be provided in the admission acceptance letter.

Provisional Acceptance:

Provisional acceptance is not offered for the dental hygiene program due to the wait list of accepted students.



Pre-DH General Education Requirements & Suggested Course Schedule:

Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
BIO 163	Basic Anat. & Physiology	4	2	0	5	Seated
ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Communication Elective	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		10	4	0	12	
2nd Semester (spring)						
CHM 130	Gen, Org. & Biochemistry	3	0	0	3	Seated
CHM 130A	Gen, Org. & Biochemistry Lab	0	2	0	1	Seated
BIO 175	General Microbiology	2	2	0	3	Seated
Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
SOC 240	Social Psychology	3	0	0	3	Seated or Online
Total Semester Hours		11	4	0	13	
<p>Communications Elective Options: Select One: ENG 112, ENG 114, COM 110, COM 120*, COM 231</p> <p>Humanities/Fine Arts Elective Options: Select One: ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 231, ENG 241, ENG 242, HUM 110, HUM 115, HUM 120, HUM 122, HUM 150, HUM 160, MUS 110, MUS 112, PHI 240*, REL 140, REL 211, REL 212</p> <p>Approved Biology Substitutions: Can substitute BIO 165/166 or BIO 168/169 for BIO 163; Can substitute BIO 275 for BIO 175</p> <p>Approved Chemistry Substitutions: Can substitute CHM 130 for CHM 130/130A</p> <p>*Recommended for DH students</p>						



Upon acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program, students will take the following courses:

Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
DEN 110	Orofacial Anatomy	2	2	0	3	Seated
DEN 111	Infection/Hazard Control	2	0	0	2	Online
DEN 112	Dental Radiology	2	3	0	3	Seated
DEN 120	Dental Hygiene Preclinical Lecture	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 121	Dental Hygiene Preclinical Lab	0	6	0	2	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	8	115	0	12	
2nd Semester (spring)						
DEN 123	Nutrition/Dental Health	2	0	0	2	Online
DEN 124	Periodontology	2	0	0	2	Online
DEN 130	Dental Hygiene Theory I	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 131	Dental Hygiene Clinic I	0	0	9	3	Seated
DEN 223	Dental Pharmacology	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 224	Materials & Procedures	1	3	0	2	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	9	3	9	13	
3rd Semester (summer)						
DEN 140	Dental Hygiene Theory II	1	2	0	2	Seated
DEN 141	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	0	0	6	2	Seated
DEN 125	Dental Office Emergencies	0	2	0	1	Hybrid
	Total Semester Hours	1	4	6	5	



4th Semester (fall)						
DEN 220	Dental Hygiene Theory III	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 221	Dental Hygiene Clinic III	0	0	12	4	Seated
DEN 222	General & Oral Pathology	2	0	0	2	Seated
DEN 232	Community Dental Health	2	3	0	3	Hybrid
	Total Semester Hours	6	3	12	11	
5th Semester (spring)						
DEN 230	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1	0	0	1	Seated
DEN 231	Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	0	0	12	4	Seated
DEN 233	Professional Development	2	0	0	2	Online
	Total Semester Hours	3	0	12	7	
Total General Education Semester Hours Credit: 28						
Total Program Semester Hours Credit: 48						
Total Semester Hours Required for Graduation: 76						



Course Descriptions

ACA 122 **Transfer & Career Success**

This course introduces students to career and transfer opportunities while building skills for academic success, career exploration, and transfer preparation, ensuring readiness for success in community college and beyond. Topics include transfer agreements with public and independent institutions, programs and processes that facilitate transfer, and transfer tools and resources; career topics include career exploration and information and skills such as resume writing, portfolio development, and professional communication. Upon completion, students will be able to identify the community college program that matches their transfer and career goals, navigate transfer policies and processes, use Transfer Guides, develop an academic plan for future success, and identify professional application materials. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

BIO 163 **Basic Anat & Physiology**

Local requisite: Take ENG-045 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course provides a basic study of the structure and function of the human body. Topics include a basic study of the body systems as well as an introduction to homeostasis, cells, tissues, nutrition, acid-base balance, and electrolytes. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the fundamental principles of anatomy and physiology and their interrelationships. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

BIO 175 **General Microbiology**

Requisites: Take One: BIO-110, BIO-111, BIO-163, BIO-165, or BIO-168 - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

This course covers principles of microbiology with emphasis on microorganisms and human disease. Topics include an overview of microbiology and aspects of medical microbiology, identification and control of pathogens, disease transmission, host resistance, and immunity. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of microorganisms and the disease process as well as aseptic and sterile techniques. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA and ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

COM 120 **Intro Interpersonal Com**

This course introduces the practices and principles of interpersonal communication in both dyadic and group settings. Emphasis is placed on the communication process, perception, listening, self-disclosure, speech apprehension, ethics, nonverbal communication, conflict, power, and dysfunctional communication relationships. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate interpersonal communication skills, apply basic principles of group discussion, and manage conflict in interpersonal communication situations. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Communication.

CHM 130 **Gen, Org, & Biochemistry**

Requisites: Take CHM-130A - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course provides a survey of basic facts and principles of general, organic, and biochemistry. Topics include measurement, molecular structure, nuclear chemistry, solutions, acid-base chemistry, gas laws, and the structure, properties, and reactions of major organic and biological groups. Upon completion, student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of fundamental chemical concepts. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

CHM 130A **Gen, Org, & Biochemistry**

Requisites: Take CHM-130 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course is a laboratory for CHM 130. Emphasis is placed on laboratory experiences that enhance materials presented in CHM 130. Upon completion, students should be able to utilize basic laboratory procedures and apply them to chemical principles presented in CHM 130. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.

**DEN 110 Orofacial Anatomy**

This course introduces the structures of the head, neck, and oral cavity. Topics include tooth morphology, head and neck anatomy, histology, and embryology. Upon completion, students should be able to relate the identification of normal structures and development to the practice of dental assisting and dental hygiene.

DEN 111 Infection/Hazard Control

This course introduces the infection and hazard control procedures necessary for the safe practice of dentistry. Topics include microbiology, practical infection control, sterilization and monitoring, chemical disinfectants, aseptic technique, infectious diseases, OSHA standards, and applicable North Carolina laws. Upon completion, students should be able to understand infectious diseases, disease transmission, infection control procedures, biohazard management, OSHA standards, and applicable North Carolina laws.

DEN 112 Dental Radiography

Corequisites: Take DEN 100 and DEN 110; Take DEN 111

This course provides a comprehensive view of the principles and procedures of radiology as they apply to dentistry. Topics include techniques in exposing, processing, and evaluating radiographs, as well as radiation safety, quality assurance, and legal issues. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the production of diagnostically acceptable radiographs using appropriate safety precautions.

DEN 120 Dental Hygiene Preclinic Lec

Corequisite: Take DEN 121

This course introduces preoperative and clinical dental hygiene concepts. Emphasis is placed on the assessment phase of patient care as well as the theory of basic dental hygiene instrumentation. Upon completion, students should be able to collect and evaluate patient data at a basic level and demonstrate knowledge of dental hygiene instrumentation

DEN 121 Dental Hygiene Precl Lab

Corequisite: DEN 120

This course provides the opportunity to perform clinical dental hygiene procedures discussed in DEN 120. Emphasis is placed on clinical skills in patient assessment and instrumentation techniques. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the ability to perform specific preclinical procedures.

DEN 123 Nutrition/Dental Health

This course introduces basic principles of nutrition with emphasis on nutritional requirements and their application to individual patient needs. Topics include the study of the food pyramid, nutrient functions, Recommended Daily Allowances, and related psychological principles. Upon completion, students should be able to recommend and counsel individuals on their food intake as related to their dental health.

DEN 124 Periodontology

Prerequisite: Take DEN 110

This course provides an in-depth study of the periodontium, periodontal pathology, periodontal monitoring, and the principles of periodontal therapy. Topics include periodontal anatomy and a study of the etiology, classification, and treatment modalities of periodontal diseases. Upon completion, students should be able to describe, compare, and contrast techniques involved in periodontal/maintenance therapy, as well as patient care management.

DEN 125 Dental Office Emergencies

This course provides a study of the management of dental office emergencies. Topics include methods of prevention, necessary equipment/drugs, medicolegal considerations, recognition and effective initial management of a variety of emergencies. Upon completion, the student should be able to recognize, assess and manage various dental office emergencies and activate advanced medical support when indicated.

**DEN 130 Dental Hygiene Theory I**

Prerequisite: Take DEN 120

Corequisite: Take DEN 131

This course is a continuation of the didactic dental hygiene concepts necessary for providing an oral prophylaxis. Topics include deposits/removal, instrument sharpening, patient education, fluorides, planning for dental hygiene treatment, charting, and clinical records and procedures. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge needed to complete a thorough oral prophylaxis.

DEN 131 Dental Hygiene Clinic I

Prerequisite: Take DEN 121

Corequisite: Take DEN 130

This course continues skill development in providing an oral prophylaxis. Emphasis is placed on treatment of the recall patients with gingivitis or light deposits. Upon completion, students should be able to assess these patients' needs and complete the necessary dental hygiene treatment.

DEN 140 Dental Hygiene Theory II

Prerequisite: Take DEN 130

Corequisite: Take DEN 141

This course introduces principles in treatment modification. Topics include modification of treatment for pain management and advanced radiographic interpretation. Upon completion, students should be able to differentiate necessary treatment modifications and radiographic abnormalities.

DEN 141 Dental Hygiene Clinic II

Prerequisite: Take DEN 131

Corequisite: Take DEN 140

This course continues skill development in providing an oral prophylaxis. Emphasis is placed on treatment of patients with early periodontal disease and subgingival deposits. Upon completion, students should be able to assess these patients' needs and complete the necessary dental hygiene treatment.

DEN 220 Dental Hygiene Theory III

Prerequisite: Take DEN 140

Corequisite: Take DEN 221

This course introduces advanced principles of patient care. Topics include advanced periodontal debridement, subgingival irrigation, air polishing, special needs and case presentations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of methods of treatment and management of periodontally compromised and special needs patients.

DEN 221 Dental Hygiene Clinic III

Prerequisite: Take DEN 141

Corequisite: Take DEN 220

This course continues skill development in providing an oral prophylaxis. Emphasis is placed on treatment of patients with moderate to advanced periodontal involvement and moderate deposits. Upon completion, students should be able to assess these patients' needs and complete the necessary dental hygiene treatment.

DEN 222 General & Oral Pathology

Prerequisite: Take one: BIO 163, BIO 165, or BIO 168

This course provides a general knowledge of oral pathological manifestations associated with selected systemic and oral diseases. Topics include developmental and degenerative diseases, selected microbial diseases, specific and nonspecific immune and inflammatory responses with emphasis on recognizing abnormalities. Upon completion, students should be able to differentiate between normal and abnormal tissues and refer unusual findings to the dentist for diagnosis.

**DEN 223 Dental Pharmacology**

Corequisite: Take one: BIO 163, BIO 165, or BIO 168

This course provides basic drug terminology, general principles of drug actions, dosages, routes of administration, adverse reactions, and basic principles of anesthesiology. Emphasis is placed on knowledge of drugs in overall understanding of patient histories and health status. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize that each patient's general health or drug usage may require modification of the treatment procedures.

DEN 224 Materials and Procedures

Prerequisite: Take DEN 111

This course introduces the physical properties of materials and related procedures used in dentistry. Topics include restorative and preventive materials, fabrication of casts and appliances, and chairside functions of the dental hygienist. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the laboratory and/or clinical application of routinely used dental materials and chairside functions.

DEN 230 Dental Hygiene Theory IV

Prerequisite: Take DEN 220

Corequisite: Take DEN 231

This course provides an opportunity to increase knowledge of the profession. Emphasis is placed on dental specialties, technological advances, and completion of a case presentation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of various disciplines of dentistry, technological advances and principles of case presentations.

DEN 231 Dental Hygiene Clinic IV

Prerequisite: Take DEN 221

Corequisite: Take DEN 230

This course continues skill development in providing an oral prophylaxis. Emphasis is placed on periodontal maintenance and on treating patients with moderate to advanced/refractory periodontal disease. Upon completion, students should be able to assess these patients' needs and complete the necessary dental hygiene treatment.

DEN 232 Community Dental Health

This course provides a study of the principles and methods used in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating community dental health programs. Topics include epidemiology, research methodology, biostatistics, preventive dental care, dental health education, program planning, and financing and utilization of dental services. Upon completion, students should be able to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate a community dental health program.

DEN 233 Professional Development

This course includes professional development, ethics, and jurisprudence with applications to practice management.

Topics include conflict management, state laws, resumes, interviews, and legal liabilities as health care professionals.

Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the ability to practice dental hygiene within established ethical standards and state laws.

ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry

Requisites: Take ENG-045 - Must be taken either prior to or at the same time as this course.

This course is designed to develop the ability to produce clear writing in a variety of genres and formats using a recursive process. Emphasis includes inquiry, analysis, effective use of rhetorical strategies, thesis development, audience awareness, and revision. Upon completion, students should be able to produce unified, coherent, well-developed essays using standard written English. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in English Composition.



PHI 240 Introduction to Ethics

Requisites: Take ENG-111 - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

This course introduces theories about the nature and foundations of moral judgments and applications to contemporary moral issues. Emphasis is placed on moral theories such as consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Upon completion, students should be able to apply various ethical theories to moral issues such as abortion, capital punishment, poverty, war, terrorism, the treatment of animals, and issues arising from new technologies. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA/ICAA as a general education course in Humanities/Fine Arts.

SOC 240 Social Psychology

This course examines the influence of culture and social groups on individual behavior and personality. Emphasis is placed on the process of socialization, communication, conformity, deviance, interpersonal attraction, intimacy, race and ethnicity, small group experiences, and social movements. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and analyze cultural and social forces that influence the individual in a society. This course has been approved for transfer under the CAA and ICAA as a general education course in Social/Behavioral Sciences.