

PROGRAM IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental hygiene, a preventive profession, is composed of licensed dental hygienists who are an integral part of the dental health team. They provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to those seeking dental care.

The dental hygiene curriculum at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry is fully approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and its graduates are eligible for examination and licensure in all states.

The curriculum is organized into a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene. Preparation for admission consists of approximately two academic years of study with the course work to be completed at any accredited college. To comply with our prerequisites, it is advisable to contact the dental hygiene program advisers at the College of Dentistry, so we can help you select the classes that will fulfill requirements for our curriculum, as well as your respective college.

After acceptance into the dental hygiene program, the next two academic years and one summer session are spent at the College of Dentistry in Lincoln or the West Division campus in Gering.

Predental Hygiene Requirements High School

Preparation for the study of dental hygiene begins in high school. The prospective dental hygiene student is encouraged to take the following subjects:

- English - 3 years
- Mathematics
 - Algebra - 2 years
 - Geometry - 1 year
- Biological Sciences (Biology) - 1 year
- Chemistry - 1 year
- Foreign Language (suggested but not required) - 2 years

College

The predental hygiene courses fulfill general requirements and provide the student with a core of knowledge.

- Communication (English Composition) - 6 hours
- Biology - 4 hours
- Microbiology - 4 hours
- Human Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I - 4 hours
- Human Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II - 4 hours
- General Chemistry - 8 hours
- Introductory Sociology - 3 hours
- Introductory Psychology - 3-4 hours
- Communication (Speech/must give speeches) - 3 hours
- Humanities/Arts - 6 hours
- Social & Behavioral Sciences/Human Behavior, Culture, and Social Organization - 3 hours

- Nutrition - 3 hours
- 12-hour series - 12 hours

Six credit hours must be completed in the Humanities & Arts (literature, philosophy, music/music history, history, religious studies, dance, photography, classics, art history, theatre arts, drawing) and three hours in Social & Behavioral Sciences/Human Behavior, Culture and Social Organization (psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, geography, gerontology, child youth & family studies, ethnic studies, women & gender studies). A 12-hour series must be completed in a specific area of study (must have the same course prefix for all courses being considered). Only one required prerequisite course may be allowed as the first of the 12-hour series, therefore prerequisite hours may range from 59-64 hours. The dental hygiene program advisor should be consulted for specific details.

The following is an **example** of course sequencing.

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
English Composition		3
General Biology/Lab		4
Speech		3
Introduction to Psychology		4
Credit Hours		14
Second Semester		
English Composition		3
Biology of Microorganisms/Lab		4
Introduction to Sociology		3
Social & Behavioral Sciences		3
First of 12 Hour Series		3
Credit Hours		16
Second Year		
First Semester		
General Chemistry I/Lab		4
Humanities/Arts		3
Humanities/Arts		3
Second of 12 Hour Series		3
Anatomy/Lab or Human Anatomy & Physiology I/Lab		4
Credit Hours		17
Second Semester		
General Chemistry II/Lab		4
Nutrition		3
Third of 12 Hour Series		3
Fourth of 12 Hour Series		3
Physiology/Lab or Human Anatomy & Physiology II/Lab		4
Credit Hours		17
Total Credit Hours		64

Transfer Credit

All official transcripts from postsecondary institutions will be examined, and credit will be awarded according to UNMC policy. Usually, credit from any *accredited* institution of higher learning is accepted for transfer if

successfully completed with a course grade of C or above. Pass/No Pass will not be accepted for completion of Dental Hygiene prerequisites.

For two- and four-year institutions, transfer credit will be determined by the standards set forth in the "Transfer Credit Practices of Designated Educational Institutions" published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Offices. No credit will be awarded for D grades or courses with pass/no pass outcomes.

Application Procedures

The Department of Dental Hygiene accepts twenty-four students each year. Applicants must have a minimum total grade point average of 2.5. (The average GPA for the entering classes of the past 10+ years has been 3.5).

The dental hygiene admission process begins by completing the online application.

1. Applicants MUST take the Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) through the American Dental Association (ADA). The preferred testing time runs from September 1 - October 31. Early registration is strongly encouraged.
2. You will then start the dental hygiene admission process by completing the online application (<https://unmc2023.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) beginning mid-October. The application must be completed and submitted online by February 1. When completing the online application, you will ENTER:
 - All college course work information (from your transcripts).
 - Personal/demographic information.
 - Answers to:
 - program campus selection and
 - program questions, including an essay about why you are pursuing dental hygiene.
 - Up to three letters of recommendation are strongly encouraged.
 - Official college transcripts submitted from ALL colleges/universities attended (even if transfer credit is not being used from that institution), as directed in application. ALL must be sent directly to the application service in Massachusetts. DO NOT send directly to the program. This will DELAY verification of your application.
 - Complete application by paying \$60 fee as directed in the application at the time of submission.
3. Provide an official high school transcript and ACT report/score directly to the UNMC Dental Hygiene Program. For further information, please contact the department of dental hygiene at 402-472-1433.
4. The dental hygiene admissions committee notifies all applicants of their acceptance or rejection. Upon notice of acceptance for admission to the dental hygiene program, a letter of intent to enroll and a non-refundable deposit of \$300 are required. The full amount of the deposit applies toward payment of tuition and fees when the student enrolls.

Applicants will be accepted after presenting evidence of intellectual promise and strong personal qualifications, including good moral character and the desire to serve the public. Consideration is given to

personal maturity and professional motivation. Students selected must be committed to scholarly pursuits and have career goals compatible with the philosophy of the baccalaureate program.

Curriculum

Third Year

First Semester		Credit Hours
DHYG 301	PRECLINIC THEORY	2
DHYG 307	MEDICAL EMERGENCIES	1
DHYG 309	PRECLINICAL TECHNIQUES	4
DENT 314 A	CLINICAL DENTAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	0
ORBI 315	OSTEOLOGY OF THE SKULL	1
ORBI 317	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ORAL BIOLOGY	2
ORBI 319	GENERAL/ORAL HISTOLOGY	2
DHYG 321	DENTAL ANATOMY LECT/LAB	2
Credit Hours		14

Second Semester

DENT 304	ORAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	2
ORBI 305A	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	0
DHYG 310	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE I	3
DENT 314A	CLINICAL DENTAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	0
ORBI 316	HEAD & NECK ANATOMY	2
DHYG 320	CLINICAL TECHNIQUES I	2
ORBI 325	INTRODUCTION TO IMMUNOLOGY	1
ADRS 326	DENTAL MATERIALS	2
ORBI 366	GENERAL/ORAL PATHOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	3
Credit Hours		15

Summer

DHYG 312	NITROUS OXIDE-OXYGEN SEDATION	1
DENT 314	CLINICAL DENTAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	1
DHYG 328	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE II	1
DHYG 330	CLINICAL TECHNIQUES II	2
PERO 331	FUNDAMENTALS OF PERIODONTOLOGY	2
GERI 335	CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS: BEHAVIOR, ETHICS, AND HEALTH SYSTEMS	1
Credit Hours		8

Fourth Year

First Semester

ORBI 401	INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY	2
DHYG 406A	COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH	0
DENT 408	CARING FOR PATIENTS WITH DISABILITIES	1
DHYG 412	LOCAL ANESTHESIA	2
DENT 415A	CLINICAL DENTAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	0
DHYG 423	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE III	4
DHYG 425	CLINICAL TECHNIQUES III	2
ORBI 491	CLINICAL ORAL PATHOLOGY	2
Credit Hours		13

Second Semester

ORBI 305	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	1
DHYG 406	COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH	3
DENT 415	CLINICAL DENTAL RADIOLOGY FOR DENTAL HYGIENE	1
DHYG 426	PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES	2
DHYG 428	CLINICAL DENTAL HYGIENE IV	4
DHYG 430	CLINICAL TECHNIQUES IV	2
ORBI 471	REVIEW OF BIOMEDICAL/DENTAL SCIENCES	1
Credit Hours		14
Total Credit Hours		64

Books and Equipment Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are set by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and may be changed at any time. The following quotations are for academic year 2024-2025 and are offered as guidelines only.¹

Fee	Cost
Dental Hygiene - Resident	\$328.00 per credit hour
Dental Hygiene - Nonresident	\$917.00 per credit hour
Dental Hygiene Instruments	1,030.00/semester
Anatomy Lab Fee	\$25.00/per year
Technology Fee	\$105.00/semester
Equipment Replacement Fee	\$310.00/semester
Library Fee ²	\$8.25/credit hour
Dental Hygiene - Lincoln Campus Student Fees	\$715.00/semester; \$270.00/summer ¹
Background Check Fee (only at matriculation)	\$50.00
Student Health Insurance ³	\$1,660.00 1st semester; \$2,300.00 2nd semester

See the Scholarships and Financial Aid section for applicable information about scholarships, financial aid, and establishing residency for tuition purposes.

Dental Hygiene Student - Books, Equipment & Instrument Policy

Books & Instruments

Dental Hygiene students are responsible to purchase and obtain assigned books.

Students must purchase their own magnification loupes. The cost to purchase the loupes is not included in the student fee assessment and will be at the student's own expense. An estimated expense for purchasing loupes is included in the financial aid cost of attendance allowance.

Instruments are owned by the dental hygiene students. They receive their entire instrument issue the first semester, junior year. The cost for instruments is assessed over four semesters and may vary from junior year to senior year.

Equipment and Replacement Fee

Students pay a service fee which provides for basic and pre-clinical laboratory supplies; use and laundering of COD clinic gowns; pre-clinical dispensing services; and other items or services necessary for students participation in the academic programs at the College.

Some equipment and dental instruments are leased to and checked out to students for specific purposes and are to be returned in satisfactory condition. Students are responsible for the cost of lost and/or damaged equipment. This includes all items issued for clinic, laboratories, or classrooms.

Anatomy Lab Fee

Students pay an annual service fee to support on-going laboratory & program endeavors necessary to successfully complete the dental hygiene program's laboratory exercises.

Technology Fee

Provides technological support, electronic course materials, and equipment updates throughout the duration of the student's program.

Withdrawal of Students

If a student leaves the program before graduation, all issued equipment and instruments must be returned before the College will authorize any appropriate refunds of University tuition and general fees; release of transcripts and letters of recommendation or any other information as determined by the College.

University Housing

The Board of Regents determines the rates for room and board in the student residence halls. University housing is only available to Lincoln campus students. Current information is available from the Division of University Housing (<https://housing.unl.edu/>), 530 N. 17th Street, Willa Cather Dining Center, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588, (402) 472-3561.