



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental hygienists are oral health clinicians and educators who help the public develop and maintain optimal oral health. As members of the dental health team, dental hygienists perform preventive and therapeutic services under the supervision of a dentist. Specific responsibilities may include: removing deposits and stains from patients' teeth; providing instructions for patients' self-care and nutritional counseling; applying topical fluoride to prevent tooth decay; and administering local anesthetic.

Dental hygienists are also responsible for recording medical and dental histories; exposing and processing dental radiographs (x-rays); and placing sealants; and preparing other diagnostic aids for the dentist.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene requires a total of 120 credit hours, including 53 hours of prerequisite and general education courses with a grade point average of at least 2.0. The prerequisites may not be taken on a pass/fail option and each must show a grade of C or better. Remedial courses cannot be used to fulfill prerequisite requirements. Once accepted into the dental hygiene program, the student will enroll in courses designed to provide educational and clinical training necessary for the practice of dental hygiene.

Candidates for admission to the program must be high school graduates with a concentration in the sciences or HSE (High School Equivalency Exam) equivalent. High school courses in biology and chemistry are strongly encouraged.

Applicants must first make application to IU Northwest before applying to the dental hygiene program. Applicants are required to attend the Dental Hygiene Open House to be considered for admission. The application deadline is February 1 of the year the student wishes to begin the program. Students are notified of acceptance into the program by May 15. Admission to the program is competitive and class size is limited.

COURSEWORK

General Education Courses:

- English Composition
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Public Speaking
- Computer Science
- Human Biology
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Microbiology
- Nutrition for Health Professionals

Select Dental Hygiene Courses:

- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Medical and Dental Emergencies
- Dental Radiology
- Oral Histology and Embryology
- Periodontics
- Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Oral Pathology

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content, and academic advising.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Dental Hygiene Program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (a specialized accreditation body recognized by the Council of Post-Secondary Education and by the U.S. Department of Education).

The Dental Hygiene Program has four full-time faculty appointments and many adjunct faculty members who bring years of experience to the classroom from their time spent in private dental offices and educational institutions.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE?

A graduate of the program is eligible to take the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination, the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) examination, and the Indiana State Board Dental Jurisprudence Examination. The student must be successful on all of the examinations to be licensed in Indiana (similar requirements are necessary for other state licensures). Upon successful completion of the examinations, the

graduate earns the privilege to practice dental hygiene in the state of Indiana.

Employment opportunities are available in private dental offices and clinics, hospitals, local, state, and federal public health facilities, educational institutions, research, and dental companies.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

The education of the student is enhanced by experience in the IU Northwest onsite Dental Clinic. The campus offers a fully equipped dental clinic with 16 dental treatment units, six radiology rooms and two darkrooms.

Additional experience is garnered through externships in private dental offices and clinics, and in local, state, and federal public health facilities throughout Northwest Indiana. This enables students to gain experience with dental healthcare teams within and outside of the university.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The students are members of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) as well as the IU Northwest Dental Education Club. They are required to attend meetings for both the association and club.

RELATED DEGREE OPTION

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Completion option (for licensed dental hygienists with an associate's degree).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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