

## Dental Hygiene

### Why should I major in Dental Hygiene?

As a dental hygienist, you will be responsible for providing diverse and complex health care services. Hygienists work directly with clients providing comprehensive assessments and oral cancer screenings which provide necessary diagnostic information. Dental hygiene is a profession that provides preventive and therapeutic services in clinical and community settings. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: removing deposits from the teeth; taking and processing X-rays; administering local anesthetic; and applying preventive agents such as fluoride and sealants.



### What type of degree will I earn at Iowa Western if I enroll in this program?

Graduates of our two-year dental hygiene program earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Upon completion of the second year of curriculum, you will have the opportunity to take the National Board Examination and a regional examination.

### If I major in Dental Hygiene, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?

By earning an associate's degree in our dental hygiene program, you'll be ready to enter the work force immediately upon graduating from Iowa Western. However, the credits you earn at Iowa Western can be transferred to other institutions and applied toward a bachelor's degree in a related area of study. Creighton University offers a degree completion program for Iowa Western graduates. By completing 36 hours at Creighton University, students can earn a B.S. degree in dental hygiene.

### What is the job outlook for Dental Hygiene graduates and what type of jobs will I be qualified for?

There is a strong demand for trained dental hygienists. As dentists' workloads increase, they are expected to hire more hygienists to perform preventative dental care. Private dental offices employ most dental hygienists, with hygienists working full or part-time. Flexible scheduling is a distinctive feature of the job. Earnings for dental hygienists are affected by geographic location and experience. In general, a dental hygienist can earn \$26 per hour or more. Employment is also available in education, sales, research, and public health.

**For More Information,  
Contact the Admissions Office:  
712.325.3277 or 800.432.5852, ext. 3277  
[www.iwcc.edu](http://www.iwcc.edu)**

### Program of Study

The Dental Hygiene program of study prepares students to become preventive health professionals who provide educational and clinical services to support oral health. These services include: evaluation; charting oral disease and conditions; removing deposits from teeth; exposing and processing dental radiographs; and applying fluoride and sealants to teeth. Graduates can seek positions in general or specialty dental practices, hospitals, research or academic institutions, public health, business and industry, or armed services. The rigorous science-oriented curriculum is the foundational framework for applying principles from the social sciences and biomedical areas to patient oral care. Didactic courses are offered at Iowa Western; clinical experiences occur at the clinic-affiliated site, Creighton University School of Dentistry, and at extramural community sites. We adhere to CDC and OSHA guidelines. A copy of our infection control policy is located in the office of the Health Division. Upon program completion, graduates are awarded an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. To become a licensed professional, graduates must successfully complete both the National Board Examination and a state or regional exam. CPR certification is required. The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [and has been granted the accreditation status of "approval *without reporting requirements.*"] The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

**Prerequisites for program application are the completion of Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Microbiology with a grade of "C" or higher.**

**Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry or Chemistry I and II must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher before beginning the Dental Hygiene program.**

### RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

<b>First Semester</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
DHY 174	Principles of Dental Hygiene	5
DHY 121	Oral Histology and Embryology	2
DHY 114	Dental Hygiene Anatomical Sciences	4
DHY 155	Radiology	2
DHY 156	Radiology Lab	1.5
PSY 111	Introduction to Psychology	3
		17.5
<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
DHY 183	Dental Hygiene I Theory	2
DHY 184	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	3
DHY 232	Nutrition and Preventive Dentistry	4
DHY 141	General and Oral Pathology	3
DHY 151	Dental Emergencies	2
DHY 211	Periodontology	2
		16
<b>Third Semester</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
DHY 283	Dental Hygiene II Theory	2
DHY 284	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	2.5
DHY 132	Dental Pharmacology	3
ENG 105	Composition I	3
		10.5
<b>Fourth Semester</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
DHY 293	Dental Hygiene III Theory	2
DHY 292	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
DHY 222	Biomaterials for Dental Hygienist	3
DHY 252	Community Dentistry	3
DHY 212	Periodontology II	2
SPC 112	Public Speaking	3
		18
<b>Fifth Semester</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
DHY 303	Dental Hygiene IV Theory	2
DHY 302	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
DHY 253	Community Oral Health Rotations	1
DHY 265	Current Dental Hygiene Practice	2
DHY 241	Dental Ethics	2
SOC 110	Introduction to Sociology	3
MGT 195	Workplace Empowerment	3
		18

**80 semester hours required**