

BS DENTAL HYGIENE

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Job Description

The Dental Hygienist is a licensed, professional member of the oral health care team who integrates the roles of clinician, corporate, public health, researcher, educator, administrator and entrepreneur. The dental hygienist plays an integral role in assisting individuals and groups in achieving and maintaining optimal oral health. Dental hygiene functions vary according to state law; however, some of the responsibilities routinely performed by a dental hygienist include:

- Removing stain, hard (calculus) and soft (plaque) deposits from around teeth and below the gum line.
- Performing oral cancer screening through examination of oral soft tissues.
- Examining periodontal (gum and bone) structures surrounding and supporting teeth.
- Instructing patients in personal oral health care procedures including brushing and flossing.
- Administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide.
- Devising and implementing community and school-based dental health programs.

Individuals entering the profession of dental hygiene must be committed to providing care to all patients including those with current or past histories of infectious diseases; for example, hepatitis, STD and HIV.

Career Opportunities

Most registered Dental Hygienists work as integral members of the dental team in private dental offices, but many provide preventive and educational services in hospitals, military installations and schools. Graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program must complete the written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a clinical examination conducted by a state or regional board to become licensed to practice.

Program Description

The Dental Hygiene Program at the College of Southern Nevada is located at the Charleston Campus in the Health Sciences Center (HSC), at the intersection of Torrey Pines and West Charleston. The HSC features a contemporary dental hygiene clinic equipped with the latest in radiology facilities, dental units, computer patient tracking, hands-off washing stations, and disinfection and sterilization capabilities. Classrooms offer state-of-the-art visual equipment and laboratory facilities. Faculty members are highly qualified dental and dental hygiene professionals with diverse backgrounds rich in clinical and academic experience.

Essential observational, movement, communication and behavioral requirements for Dental Hygienists.

The Dental Hygiene student must be able to:

- Employ dental magnification loupes to discriminate among fine structural and color (i.e., red versus pink) differences in intraoral tissues, including oral pathologies (i.e., blue versus black, brown, or red).
- Move freely and safely within a dental operatory and laboratory setting.
- Reach laboratory benchtops and shelves.
- Travel to various clinical sites for observations and clinical experiences.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work often requiring prolonged sitting over several hours.
- Maneuver portable dental, radiology, and nitrous oxide equipment to safely utilize equipment when working on patients.
- Control precision dental, and dental hygiene instruments, to safely remove calcified deposits from teeth, or add therapeutic antimicrobials to oral tissues.
- Use a computer keyboard to calculate, record, and transmit clinical information.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform clinical procedures on patients.
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding medical and oral conditions.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other healthcare professionals verbally and in written and typed format.
- Independently prepare papers, clinical notes, and take written, computer, and clinical practical examinations.
- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systemize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ critical thinking and problem solving skills and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical changes.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.

Approximate Costs (Costs are subject to change)

Tuition:

61 credits x \$106.75 per credit hr (Lower Division) + 62 credits x \$175.00 per credit hr (Upper Division).....	\$17,361.75
Differential Fee for DH courses – 59 credits x \$100.00 per credit hr... \$5,900.00	
Student Union/Technology Fee per credit hr	\$8.00/\$8.50
Books.....	\$1,800.00
Uniforms/Equipment.....	\$10,000.00 - \$10,500.00
CPR Certification.....	\$50.00 - \$80.00
Physical Exam.....	\$50.00 - \$75.00
Dental Exam.....	\$50.00 - \$125.00
Immunizations.....	\$0 - \$800.00
Medical Document Manager/Drug Screen/Certified Background	
Check.....	\$.90.00 - \$110.00
Medical Insurance.....	\$20.00 - \$200.00/month
Applies only if you are presently uninsured.	
College Application Fee.....	\$20.00
One time, non-refundable fee charged to new students only.	
Limited Entry Application Fee.....	\$20.00
SADHA Professional Association Fee.....	\$140.00
Typhon Student Tracking Program.....	\$105.00
National Certification & Examinations.....	\$550.00
Licensure:	
Background Check.....	\$400.00 - \$500.00
Regional Examination.....	\$2,000.00
Nevada Licensing Application.....	\$650.00
Licensing Fees.....	\$500.00
Pre-Admission Spatial/Dexterity Testing Fee.....	\$50.00 - \$60.00
TEAS Testing Fee.....	\$90.00 - \$110.00
Non-resident Fee.....	\$3,738.50 per semester
This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.	

Note: Specialized dental stools have a maximum weight capacity of 300 lbs. Candidates who exceed this capacity will be responsible for providing their own dental stool that meets the standards for clinical performance.

Program Goals

The Dental Hygiene Program positively impacts the delivery of dental hygiene services by fulfilling the following goals:

- Maintain an educational program that meets current dental hygiene practice and education standards with an adequate number of graduates to respond to the state's manpower needs.
- Provide comprehensive evidence-based dental hygiene process of care for diverse clients of all ages while recognizing the client as an individual with particular needs.
- Seek collaborative partnerships within the community to provide enrichment and clinical experiences for all level of learners.
- Foster learners with critical thinking skills and research methodology to promote life-long learning.

Accepted Students

Students accepted into the program will be required to show proof of CPR certification, health insurance, immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and proof of a negative TB skin test prior to the first scheduled practicum/clinical experience. A physical examination must also be completed. Students may also be required to submit to an official background check. Medical insurance may be purchased through CSN Student Government.

All states require that Dental Hygienists be licensed. In addition to successfully completing the course of study in an accredited Dental Hygiene Program and passing the written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, the Nevada Dental Practice Act (NRS 631.290) requires that candidates for licensure be of good moral character and be citizens of the United States or lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States. Prospective students are advised that if they have felony or misdemeanor convictions or have a history of substance abuse or infectious disease that this may preclude subsequent licensure as a Dental Hygienist in Nevada (NAC 631.050)

Accreditation

The College of Southern Nevada's Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and was granted the status of "approval without reporting".

The information provided in this literature is for advisement purposes only.

College of Southern Nevada, Health Programs Advisement Office, 6375 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146, Phone: (702) 651-5885

