DENTAL HYGIENE DIVISION

Dental School, Room 415
(816) 235-2050

About the Undergraduate Dental Hygiene Program

Dental hygiene is a rapidly growing and increasingly dynamic allied health profession for qualified persons who wish to participate as active members of a health field. Service to mankind is the primary purpose of health professions. The dental hygienist with a baccalaureate degree accomplishes this objective through a variety of challenging and rewarding opportunities.

There is informal evidence that a nine-month dental hygiene program existed at UMKC (then the Kansas City Western Dental College) in 1922-23, as did a one-year program during the ’30s. However, concrete documentation indicates that the official program began in 1952.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

The student at UMKC can earn a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene in two ways. The first alternative offers an opportunity for the student who has completed two academic years of liberal arts prerequisites at any accredited community/junior college, college or university to matriculate into the entry level clinical dental hygiene program. The second alternative provides for the licensed dental hygienist with a certificate or associate degree an opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree (degree completion).

Undergraduate

The Division of Dental Hygiene at the UMKC School of Dentistry offers two routes to a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene: The B.S. Clinical Entry-Level program and the B.S. Degree Completion program. The following competencies have been adopted by the faculty in the Division of Dental Hygiene as the skills, knowledge and values every graduate must be able to consistently and independently demonstrate to qualify for graduation. The School of Dentistry, Division of Dental Hygiene assessment plan calls for theses competencies to be assessed throughout the classroom, laboratory and patient care experiences during the student’s tenure in the program in the form of papers, case study presentations, student portfolios, clinical competency examinations, community assessment and other appropriate assessment measures.

- Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
- General Education Requirements
- Entry Level Program
  - Admission Requirements
  - Program Requirements
- Degree Completion Program

Graduate/Professional


Courses

DENTHYG 3000 Dental Morphology And Occlusion Credits: 2
Designed to provide the dental hygiene student with a sound knowledge base in dental morphology and occlusion through discussion and laboratory experiences. Students will learn to identify anatomical structures of each tooth and be able to communicate these findings effectively with colleagues and patients in both verbal and written forms. The clinical application and relevance of dental morphology in the practice of dental hygiene will be emphasized. Special consideration will be given to root morphology as it relates to periodontal instrumentation. Activities will include: identification of extracted teeth, terminology exercises, dental charting experiences and identifying classifications of occlusion.

DENTHYG 3020 Dental Radiology Credits: 2
Lecture and clinical practice of dental radiographic procedures. Topics included are radiation hygiene, taking and developing radiographs, processing and mounting films, and radiographic interpretation. Clinical experience is required throughout the remaining semesters.
DENT-HYG 3030 Introduction to Histopathology of Oral Tissues Credits: 2
A comparison of the microscopic anatomy of healthy and diseased oral tissues. The major goal of this course is to integrate basic sciences (embryology, descriptive histology, and cell biology of oral tissues) with clinical sciences. The gap between the basic and clinical sciences is not always easy to bridge; this course is designed to bridge the “gap.” This course provides students with an introduction to oro-facial histology and embryology and pathology that may arise from the tissues of the head, neck, and oral cavity.

Prerequisites: Dental hygiene student.

DENT-HYG 3080 Introduction to the Preventive Practice of Dental Hygiene Credits: 4
This course will introduce theories and rationales for basic clinical dental hygiene care (infection control, oral examination and fundamentals of instrumentation) in diverse populations. Practical application of specific clinical skills will be introduced in the classroom and applied in the clinical setting.

DENT-HYG 3080L Preclinical Dental Hygiene Credits: 2
This course emphasizes the practical application of the fundamental concepts and principles of patient care in a diverse society discussed in DENT-HYG 3080. Emphasis is placed on patient assessment and techniques of instrumentation for examination and dental hygiene treatment. After the student has mastered basic skills, he/she will begin to provide direct dental hygiene services.

DENT-HYG 3200 General and Oral Pathology Credits: 2-3
An introduction to the principles of general pathology and organ system pathology including inflammation, immunity and diseases of immune origin, genetic diseases, neoplasia with emphasis on oral cancer, and diseases of selected organ systems including pulmonary, cardiovascular, hematopoietic, endocrine, skeletal, gastrointestinal/hepatic, pancreatic and other systems as time permits.

DENT-HYG 3220 Dental Biomaterials Credits: 2
This course is designed to provide the dental hygiene student with a sound knowledge base in the science and manipulation of dental biomaterials. Through lectures and laboratory session, the student's ability to make clinical judgments regarding the application of dental biomaterials and the ways in which materials react to the oral environment will be enhanced.

DENT-HYG 3260 Principles Of Periodontics Credits: 2
This course in Periodontics will cover the biological and clinical aspects of periodontal health and pathology. An introduction to the supporting structures of the teeth will provide the foundation of understanding pathogenesis, histopathology and subsequent therapeutic treatment of periodontal diseases. The dental hygienist's role in recognition, prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases and maintenance of periodontal health is examined.

DENT-HYG 3280C Dental Hygiene Clinic I Credits: 3
Students will further develop clinical skills and techniques learned in DENT-HYG 3080L and previous courses by providing services to patients.

DENT-HYG 3285 Seminar In Dental Hygiene I Credits: 2-3
This course expands on theory and background presented in DENT-HYG 3080. Topics include expanding dental hygiene skills required for the care of patients and continued development of problem solving abilities and critical thinking skills as they relate to the provision of dental hygiene care. Provide students with a more insightful view of the role of the dental hygienist in the delivery of comprehensive patient care.

DENT-HYG 3300 Radiographic Interpretation Credits: 0.5
The purpose of the course is to introduce interpretation of radiographic anomalies and pathology just prior to the clinical experience. Since there was little time for an emphasis on radiographic interpretation during your second year radiology course, this lecture and participation course supplement clinic instruction in diagnosis of the patient's oral needs and formulation of a treatment plan. Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to recognize simple pathology and radiographic anomalies.

DENT-HYG 3320 Oral Health Behavior Change Credits: 3
The purpose of this hybrid course is to prepare the junior dental hygiene student to effectively assess and individualize preventive oral health care through the use of brief motivational interviewing. The course will include evidenced based information in dental caries and caries risk assessment, caries preventive measures, introduction to periodontal disease, dental stains, and management of xerostomia, halitosis, and dentinal sensitivity, oral healthcare products and how to care for an oral appliance. The student will subsequently apply course concepts to facilitate patient behavior change in the clinical setting. Recommended preparation: a course in General Psychology.

DENT-HYG 3340 Principles Of Public Health Credits: 2
This course introduces the student to principles of public health, the field of epidemiology, health care delivery systems, public health terminology and teaching methodologies to use in culturally diverse community settings. Students will have the opportunity to assess a target population, plan, implement and evaluate appropriate programs. Students will also apply theories and skills of communication and education while preparing and presenting oral health education programs for various population groups.

DENT-HYG 4001 Clinical Oral Radiology Credit: 1
Clinical application of radiology principles taught in preceding terms. To provide clinical skills to safely make and interpret radiographic images for the provision of oral health care.
DENT-HYG 4020 Local Anesthesia And Pain Control Credits: 3
This course is designed to prepare dental hygiene students for the safe, effective administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation. Included are content areas in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and emergency management as they relate to the administration of local anesthetics, nitrous oxide, and pain control. Laboratory sessions are structured to develop actual experiences in administration of local anesthetics and nitrous oxide. Various mechanisms for pain control are also covered. Methods of presentation include lecture, large group discussion, laboratory and clinical participation.

DENT-HYG 4040 Foundations of Teaching Credits: 2
This course provides an introduction to the evidence-based best practices in course design for students who are preparing for a career in teaching and for those who simply wish to learn more about classroom instruction. Students will explore outcomes centered course design and practical and effective instructional strategies. Content application activities include syllabus development, writing objectives, constructing lesson plans, preparing presentations and developing course management sites.

DENT-HYG 4050 Periodontics II Credit: 1
This course in Periodontics will provide an introduction to Phase II and III therapy. Periodontal decision making will be emphasized. The dental hygienists' role in recognition, prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases and maintenance of periodontal health is further examined.

Prerequisites: DENT-HYG 3260.

DENT-HYG 4060C Dental Hygiene Clinic II Credits: 2
The student will continue to develop competency in basic dental hygiene skills. Principles of periodontal techniques, such as non-surgical periodontal therapy, supportive treatment procedures and comprehensive patient care in a diverse society will be emphasized. The student will be asked to demonstrate professional management skills and productivity.

DENT-HYG 4065 Seminar in Dental Hygiene II Credit: 1
This seminar course is offered in conjunction with DENT-HYG 4060C, and expands upon theory and background presented in other dental hygiene courses within the curriculum which will involve further development of their critical thinking/problem solving skills regarding patient care. Students will be provided with further instruction regarding advanced instrumentation, cultural diversity, motivational interviewing and other technological advancements utilized in dental hygiene care.

Co-requisites: DENT-HYG 4060C.

DENT-HYG 4080 Introduction to Research and Evidence Based Decision Making Credits: 2
This is a lecture/discussion course with assigned exercises in the research process and evaluating scientific studies. Students will apply basic principles of research design and methodology to the critical analysis of contemporary oral health related literature focusing on the review and evaluation of literature as it relates to the practice and profession of dentistry and dental hygiene with the intent of utilizing an evidence-based approach to care.

DENT-HYG 4100 Pharmacology Credits: 3
An overview and introduction to the major drug groups and common drugs taken by dental outpatients. Course includes the basic principles and general theories of drug action, basic pharmacokinetics, their mechanisms of action and therapeutic uses and the relative dental significance of each.

DENT-HYG 4110 Introduction to Research Methodologies Credits: 2
This is a lecture/discussion course with assigned exercises in the research process and evaluating scientific studies. Students will learn the basic principles involved in research design and methodology and will apply those principles to the critical analysis of contemporary health related literature. Focus on the review and evaluation of literature as it relates to the practice and profession of dentistry with the intent of utilizing an evidence-based approach to care will be stressed.

DENT-HYG 4115 Practicing in the Dental Hygiene Public Health Safety Net Credits: 3
The course is designed to increase the knowledge base of the practicing dental hygienist in the area of public health dentistry, including health promotion, disease prevention, current legislation, evidence based treatment, school based portable dentistry, coalitions, treating the geriatric and disabled populations, as well as how to write and secure.

DENT-HYG 4120C Dental Hygiene Clinic III Credits: 4
The student will continue to develop competency in intermediate dental hygiene skills. Principles of periodontal techniques, such as root planning, pain control and supportive techniques will be stressed. Comprehensive treatment planning and implementation of comprehensive care to a diverse patient population will be the focus of this course. Continued development of professionalism, management and critical thinking skills will be emphasized.

DENT-HYG 4125 ECP III Training Course Credits: 2
The ECP III Training Course is designed to prepare a registered dental hygienist to apply for the Kansas Extended Care Permit III. Hygienists with the ECP III certificate can practice under the sponsorship of a dentist in a variety of public health settings including schools and long term care facilities in Kansas.

DENT-HYG 4130 Introduction to Instructional Technologies and Online Learning Credit: 1
The web-based multimedia course will examine the mediated communication process using Internet tools and is designed to help the incoming student become prepared to succeed in their degree program using online technologies. Students will examine the changes and challenges associated with mediated synchronous and asynchronous technologies. The course will be delivered in four different modules.
DENT-HYG 4150 Portfolio Capstone Credit: 1
The capstone course serves as the culminating experience for students in the BSDH Degree Completion Program. During the Capstone course, students will create a coherent and cohesive body of work reflective of attainment of the competencies for the BSDHDC program—in the form of an e-Portfolio.

DENT-HYG 4210 Practice Management Credits: 3
Current relevant issues impacting dental hygiene practice are discussed. Dental practice economics, communicating and management in a diverse society are included. Also included in this course is the study of jurisprudence as it relates to the practice of dental hygiene.

DENT-HYG 4240 Ethics In Professional Practice Credit: 1
Study of ethics and ethical issue related to the practice of dental hygiene within a diverse society. Includes application of ethical principles to real-life situations.

DENT-HYG 4260 Senior Seminar Credits: 2
This course serves as a means of synthesizing information from all courses in the dental hygiene curriculum and applying content to patient cases and practice management issues. Case-based learning (CBL) will be utilized to review significant content areas as well as to introduce subjects not previously encountered during previous clinical experiences. Case based/problems based learning (PBL) with faculty facilitation will assist students in managing patient cases. This course is also designed to assist in preparing senior dental hygiene students for the written and clinical examinations required for licensure.

DENT-HYG 4260C Dental Hygiene Clinic IV Credits: 4
The student will have the opportunity to reach competency in all clinical skills. Emphasis will be placed on decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking, appointment and time management. The course will focus on comprehensive dental hygiene care to a diverse population.

DENT-HYG 4320 Special Patient Care Practicum Credits: 2-4
Through outside agency affiliation, students will have the opportunity of applying the course content from Principles of Public Health, Dental Health Education and DHE-Practicum. Sites for participation include hospitals, nursing homes, and residential and day activity centers for developmentally disabled.

DENT-HYG 4340 Community Dentistry Practicum Credits: 2-4
The community dentistry practicum provides the student with an opportunity for personal exploration of the many settings of community dentistry. These experiences may lead the students into clinical activities or design and implementation of dental health educational programs. The student will have the opportunity to work with various community health professionals in the Kansas City area. The student will need reliable transportation and should expect some experiences to require travel.

DENT-HYG 4350 Periodontal Therapy Practicum Credits: 1-4
This course is designed for the dental hygiene student who desires increased experience with periodontal skills. The course involves practical experience in the graduate periodontics clinic working with a periodontology resident. Two clinic sessions per week; one seminar scheduled weekly.

DENT-HYG 4360 Practice Management Practicum Credits: 3
Current relevant issues impacting dental hygiene practice are discussed. Dental practices, economics, communication and management are included. Practical application of course would include the development of a dental office operating manual.

DENT-HYG 4380 Research Practicum Credits: 2-4
This course provides an opportunity to apply the content in the previous course Introduction to Research Design. The protocol identified may be a basic science, clinical or community dental hygiene problem. The field experience may deal with a basic or applied, descriptive or explanatory research question.

DENT-HYG 4500 Seminar on Issues in Higher Education for Health Professionals Credits: 2-4
This course is designed to introduce the student to matters encountered in higher education specific to dental hygiene education. Weekly readings, assignments, and sessions will familiarize the student in topics such as: writing resumes and cvs, case-based learning, accreditation, promotion and tenure, and assessment.

DENT-HYG 4600 Evidence Based Decision Making in the Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene Credits: 2-4
This course is designed for the graduate and degree completion dental hygiene student and expand on the student’s basic knowledge of the dental hygiene process of care. Utilization of evidence based decision making skills will be explored in an effort to incorporate current scientific literature, personal clinical experience and patient preferences as it relates to the delivery of comprehensive patient care. Skills taught in this course will enhance background knowledge related to the dental hygiene process of care and help to foster an attitude of critical analysis and lifelong learning.

DENT-HYG 4620 Introduction to Educational Methodology Credits: 3
This course is designed to introduce the student to basic educational methodologies and to provide participants with a better understanding of the teaching/learning process. The course includes units on instructor/student relationships, educational approaches, educational ethics and professionalism, the scholarship of teaching and learning and curriculum theory.

DENT-HYG 4625 Dental Hygiene Administration Credits: 2
This course is designed for the post-certificate dental hygiene student. Major topic areas include accreditation of dental hygiene programs, the impact of National and State Board examinations on curriculum planning, selective admissions policies and procedures, faculty evaluation, promotion and tenure and students’ rights.
DENT-HYG 4630 Practicum in Dental Hygiene Administration Credits: 2-4
Under the supervision of the Director of Dental Hygiene, the student will gain actual experiences in the daily administration of a dental hygiene program. The student may contract for responsibilities such as admissions, budget preparations, course scheduling, report writing and student academic counseling.

DENT-HYG 4635 Practicum In Clinical Supervision Credits: 2-4
Under the supervision and permission of the Dental Hygiene Clinical Supervisor, the student will gain actual experience in the duties involved in coordinating the clinical education of a dental hygiene student. The student may contract for responsibilities such as, coordinating mock board examinations, maintaining student clinical records, developing faculty and student clinic schedules and report writing.

DENT-HYG 4640 Student Teaching and Conference I Credits: 2-4
Under the direction of a supervising professor, the student may select teaching experience in the classroom areas of their choice. The student develops behavioral course objectives, comprehensive lesson plans, test and examination items, classroom presentations, and prepares student evaluations in the selected classroom teaching areas. The student may select teaching assignments in one of the developed externship student teaching programs. Conferences will be held in conjunction with the course.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 4040, DENT-HYG 4620.

DENT-HYG 4650 Student Teaching and Conference II Credits: 2-4
The student will continue to develop teaching skills in laboratory and/or classroom areas as selected by the student under the direction of a supervising professor.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 4640.

DENT-HYG 4660 Independent Study in Dental Hygiene Credits: 1-4
This course is designed for the dental hygiene student who desires independent study of a particular problem or area of interest in dental hygiene education.

DENT-HYG 4680 Dental Hygiene Clinical Instruction I Credits: 2-4
Continued development of competency as a clinical instructor under the supervision of the dental hygiene faculty. Requires a half-day in clinic student instructor.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 4640.

DENT-HYG 4685 Dental Hygiene Clinical Instruction II Credits: 1-4
A continuation of DENT-HYG 4680. Under the supervision of the dental hygiene faculty, students may continue to develop skills as a dental hygiene clinical instructor.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 4680.

DENT-HYG 5500 Introduction to Educational Methodology Credits: 3
This course is designed to introduce the student to basic educational methodologies and to provide participants with a better understanding of the teaching/learning process. The course includes units on instructor/student relationships, educational approaches, educational ethics and professionalism, the scholarship of teaching and learning and curriculum theory.

DENT-HYG 5502 Foundations of Teaching Credits: 2
This course provides an introduction to the evidence-based best practices in course design for students who are preparing for a career in teaching and for those who simply wish to learn more about classroom instruction. Students will explore outcomes centered course design. Content application activities include syllabus development, writing objectives, constructing lesson plans, preparing presentations, developing course management sites, and test development.
**Prerequisites:** Must be a student enrolled in the MSDHE program.

DENT-HYG 5510 Student Teaching and Conference I Credits: 2-4
Student teaching experience in classroom areas as selected by the student under the direction of a supervising professor. The student develops behavioral course objectives, test and examination items, classroom presentations, and prepares student evaluations in the selected classroom teaching areas. The student may select teaching assignments in one of the developed externship student teaching programs. Conferences will be held in conjunction with the course.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 4040, DENT-HYG 5500.

DENT-HYG 5512 Student Teaching and Conference II Credits: 2-4
This course is designed to provide the graduate dental hygiene student with additional experience in classroom teaching. Student teaching experiences will be selected by the student under the direction of and in conference with a supervising professor.
**Prerequisites:** DENT-HYG 5510, DENT-HYG 5516.

DENT-HYG 5516 Special Issues in Higher Education for Health Professional Credits: 3
This course is designed to introduce the student to matters encountered in higher education - specific to dental hygiene education. Weekly readings, assignments, and sessions will familiarize the student in topics such as: writing resumes and cvs, motivational interviewing, accreditation, promotion and tenure, and social media.
DENT-HYG 5530 Clinical Instruction and Conference I Credits: 2-4
Students will actively participate in clinical instruction under the supervision of a dental hygiene faculty member. Topics relative to clinical teaching will be discussed in weekly seminars. Students will be encouraged to apply knowledge gained in DENT-HYG 4620 and DENT-HYG 5500 during clinical instructional experiences. Additionally the student must participate in at least 7 day of clinic per week to equal another credit hour of course work.

DENT-HYG 5532 Clinical Instruction and Conference II Credits: 2-4
This course is a continuation of DENT-HYG 5530. Under the supervision of the dental hygiene faculty, the student will continue to develop skills as a dental hygiene clinical instructor.

Prerequisites: DENT-HYG 5530.

DENT-HYG 5553 Evidence Based Decision Making in the Clinical Practice of Dental Hygiene Credits: 2-4
This course is designed for the graduate and degree completion dental hygiene student and will expand on the student's basic knowledge of the dental hygiene process of care. Utilization of evidence based decision making skills will be explored in an effort to incorporate current scientific literature, personal clinical experience and patient preferences as it relates to the delivery of comprehensive patient care. Skills taught in this course will enhance background knowledge related to the dental hygiene process of care and help to foster an attitude of critical analysis and life-long learning.

DENT-HYG 5560 Practicum in Clinical Supervision and Management Credits: 2-4
Practical experience in functioning as a Clinic Supervisor. Clinical managerial projects will be assigned according to students' interests and goals by agreement between student and instructor.

DENT-HYG 5565 Advanced Special Patient Care Practicum I Credits: 1-4
This course is designed to familiarize the student with general principles of cancer therapy and the role of the dental team in the multidisciplinary care of patients undergoing oncology treatments. Special emphasis will be placed on the treatment of the patient with head and neck cancer, and preventive and palliative dental interventions for control of the orl complications associated with all cancer therapies. Cancer prevention issues and the psychosocial and economic impact of cancer diagnosis will also be discussed.

DENT-HYG 5566 Advanced Special Patient Care Practicum II Credits: 1-4
This course will provide the graduate dental hygiene student with the opportunity to explore the relationship of an oncology dental program to medical health care facilities.

DENT-HYG 5570 Administrative Practicum Credits: 1-4
Practical experience in administration. The student selects areas of responsibility based on their goals and interests in administration. Possible areas of involvement are: recruitment, admissions, curriculum and course development, course scheduling, grant and report writing and student advising.

DENT-HYG 5575 Practicing in the Dental Hygiene Public Safety Net Credits: 3
This course is designed to increase the knowledge base of practicing dental hygienists in the area of public health dentistry, including health promotion, disease prevention, current legislation, evidence based treatment, school based portable dentistry, coalitions, treating the geriatric and disabled populations, as well as how to write and secure grant monies. In addition, the course will expose dental hygienists to a variety of public health settings in which they can practice with an Extended Care Permit (in KS) or the Dental Hygiene Designation (in MO). Information on how to apply for the permits will also be shared.

DENT-HYG 5576 Extended Care Permit (ECP) III Training Course Credits: 2
The Extended Care Permit (ECP) III Training Course is designed to prepare a registered dental hygienist to apply for the Kansas Extended Care Permit III. Hygienists with the ECP III certificate can practice under the sponsorship of a dentist in a variety of public health settings including schools and long term care facilities in Kansas.

Prerequisites: Must be a student enrolled in the MSDHE program.

DENT-HYG 5585 Portfolio Capstone Course Credit: 1
This capstone course serves as the culminating experience for students in the MS in Dental Hygiene Education (MS in DHE). During the Capstone course, students will create a coherent and cohesive body of work reflective of attainment of the competencies for their respective programs - in the form of an e-Portfolio. This course should be taken in the semester of anticipated completion/graduation of the MS in DHE program.

DENT-HYG 5590 Independent Study Credits: 1-4
Independent study of a particular topic or area of interest to the student in dental hygiene/dentistry and/or higher education.

DENT-HYG 5595 Writing in Science Credits: 1-2
This seminar course is designed to provide advanced education students in the health professions the skills necessary to write and communicate in science. Course activities and topics include: critical analysis of the literature, literature summary tables, structure and organization of documents, style and usage, drafting, revising and finishing. Participants will practice the craft of scientific writing not only as the writer but also as the reader providing correction and reorganization where appropriate. While this course examines many writing tasks, exercise culminate with the development of a research protocol or scientific article.

DENT-HYG 5599 Research And Thesis Credits: 1-6
This course is designed to support the research process from protocol development through data collection and report of results. Research committee chairperson typically serves as the course director.