

DENTAL HYGIENE, AS

Program code: DHYG-AS

Location: Tunxis

Program Description

The CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene program provides the skills and knowledge necessary to function effectively as an integral member of the dental health team. The program has a 45-year affiliation with University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Dental Medicine. The program utilizes the facilities of the UConn School of Dental Medicine, federal, state and local hospitals, and community health clinics. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the examinations for licensure given by Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and American Board of Dental Examiners. Graduates who pass both boards are eligible for a Connecticut license. The program is the only state supported dental hygiene program in Connecticut.

The Dental Hygiene program's faculty are highly qualified with a wide range of clinical and community experience.

- Dental classes are held in a state-of-the-art simulated dental clinic and lab facilities.
- CT State Tunxis offers the only publicly-supported program in Connecticut to provide a degree in Dental Hygiene.
- Students have many opportunities to participate in community outreach service-learning projects on the local, national, and international level.

Learning Outcomes

The Dental Hygiene Program will utilize the following graduation outcomes in assessing students. CT State Tunxis dental hygiene students strive for achievement of these abilities as well as traditional grades.

1. Health Promotion - develops, implements, and evaluates health promotion strategies directed toward assisting individuals as well as diverse populations achieve oral wellness as a component of overall health and awareness.
2. Process of Care and Evidence-Based Practice - provides care to all clients without regard to economic, social, cultural, religious, or health status, based upon an individualized human need, evidence-based practice which includes assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, education, evaluations, and documentation.
3. Teamwork - effectively engages in interpersonal activities and teamwork.
4. Technology - appropriately and effectively uses technology to accomplish assigned tasks.
5. Oral and Written Communication - delivers oral presentations or written text using appropriate information and/or analysis for the rhetorical situation.
6. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - identifies the problem or deficit, formulates an argument, explains, and analyzes relationships clearly, draws reasonable inferences, and conclusions that are logical.
7. Ethical and Professional Standards - identifies and reflects critically on ethical issues presented in classroom, simulation, community settings, or clinical patient care. Demonstrates professionalism across the curriculum in all aspects of the program.

Career Fields for Dental Hygiene Graduates

Dental hygienists may work in a variety of health care settings such as private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, hospitals, managed care organizations, correctional institutions, nursing homes or in a corporate environment. In addition to the clinical role, dental hygienists may also work in an administrative capacity in any of these locations.

Accreditation and Affiliation

The CT State Tunxis program in Dental Hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>.

Licensure for Graduates: Dental hygiene students at the Tunxis Campus have excellent outcomes on the Dental Hygiene National and Regional Clinical Boards which qualifies them to apply for licensure to practice.

Selective Admissions Criteria/Application Process for Admission

Detailed information regarding selective admission events and deadlines is available on the CT State Selective Admissions Webpage (<https://ctstate.edu/admissions-registration/how-to-apply/selective-admissions>). Ongoing requirements are described below.

- Completion of the Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH). Exam is administered through the American Dental Association. Application and guide may be found at: Admission Test for Dental Hygiene and Users Guide (<https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/admission-test-for-dental-hygiene-atdh>). Students should release scores to Tunxis Dental Hygiene Program. A minimum score of 310 is required.
- Applicant must have completed the below courses with a minimum combined GPA of 2.7. A minimum of a "C" grade must be achieved in each course. Pass/Fail is not accepted.

Code	Title	Credits
CHEM 1110	Concepts of Chemistry	4
ENG 1010	Composition	3
MATH 1002 or MATH 1010 or MATH 1011	Math for Science and Technology Intermediate Algebra Applied Algebra with Modeling	3
BIO 2111	Anatomy and Physiology I	4

- Applicant must take science courses within 5 years of applying to the program; and all science courses must be 4 credits with on-ground laboratory components. Grades will be averaged for any science course repeated within this time frame.
- Applicant must attend a dental hygiene information session.
- Applicant is encouraged to complete general education courses prior to applying to the program.

The applicant must submit ALL of the following by the deadline:

- All college transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation which are professional or academic in nature

- Proof of a minimum of 4 hours of shadowing a licensed dental hygienist

In addition to the admission requirements, and prior to the start of the first semester of the program, applicant must complete the below courses with a grade of "C" or higher. Pass/Fail is not accepted.

• Code	Title	Credits
PSY 1011	General Psychology I	3
BIO 2112	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 2350	Microbiology	4
DHYG 2005	Nutrition for Health Professionals	3

CCS 1001 College and Career Success must also be completed or a waiver obtained.

Final acceptance of the applicant is contingent upon successful completion of these courses. Consideration is given to the number of college courses completed per semester.

Non-Course Requirements for Dental Hygiene students

Immunizations

In addition to the state college immunization requirements, students are required to be immunized for tetanus, hepatitis B, and annual influenza. The COVID-19 vaccination is encouraged. Students will receive a packet of information at the time of acceptance into the CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene Program.

Criminal Background Checks

Some clinical learning sites require students to undergo a background check for felony convictions. Students who do not pass the background check may be excluded from the clinical site and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program. International students will be required to provide a copy of their passport.

Medical Emergency Response

Students are required to complete First Aid, Emergency Oxygen, and Basic Life Support. As part of the first semester curriculum, students will complete the certification. Students must successfully complete all certifications. Responding to medical emergencies is a dental hygiene standard of care and a professional obligation.

Clinical Site

Clinical learning experiences are planned as an integral part of the dental hygiene courses and are held at a variety of health care settings, such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and selected community health centers. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from assigned clinical sites. Clinical experiences may be assigned during daytime, evening, or weekend hours. Assignment of clinical sites is at the discretion of the dental hygiene faculty.

Waiver of Licensure Guarantee

Upon successful completion of the associate of science degree in Dental Hygiene, the graduate is eligible to take licensure examinations and apply for a license. The completion of the dental hygiene program does not ensure a license to practice dental hygiene. Licensure requirements and procedures are the responsibility of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Felony Conviction

Connecticut Department of Public Health has the authority to deny licensure to an individual that has committed or been found guilty of committing a felony or an act that does not conform to the accepted standards of the profession.

Health care professionals/students are at an increased risk for contracting bloodborne infectious diseases. The CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene program is not responsible for any medical cost associated with you contracting any communicable disease during or prior to your education and/or participation in the CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene Program sponsored functions. If you contract a bloodborne infectious disease before or during your enrollment appropriate health experts must be consulted to determine your ability to treat patients.

Special Admission Requirements Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program

In addition to the academic admission requirements for Dental Hygiene, and for continual progression in the program, the following essential functions are also expected of all students with or without accommodations. Students must be able to fulfill these essential functions of the job without endangering patients or other healthcare workers. Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations.

Students must be competent in:

- an ability to withstand academic rigor befitting of a healthcare professional
 - use of the English language
- gross and fine motor skills sufficient to lift, position, and operate equipment
- interpersonal skills such that they are capable of interacting with diverse populations individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds
- physical endurance and mobility necessary to move from place to place in small spaces, as well as full range of motion, manual and finger dexterity
- physical endurance
- hand-eye coordination
- auditory ability and other sensory skills sufficient to monitor and assess the health needs and recognize the oral conditions of patients as well as maintain patient safety
- visual acuity and adequate spatial perception
- intact proprioception (the ability to sense pressure/force)
- presentation of a professional appearance, attitude and performance level; maintaining personal health and be emotionally stable

Additional Information for Special Populations of Applicants

Dental Hygiene Special Admissions for High School Graduates

The CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene Program will accept high school graduates to begin the three-year sequence of courses. The applicant must meet the following admission's criteria:

- High school diploma
- SAT scores: Math 530 or greater, English reading score of 25+. SATs need to be taken within two years of application.
- High school GPA 3.0 or greater.

All applicants must take prerequisite courses in the sequence provided and maintain a C or better. If a student does not maintain a C in each course, the student will not be guaranteed automatic acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program but may apply for the regular selective admissions process.

Advanced Standing for CT State Certified Dental Assisting Graduates (CT State Tunxis and CT State Manchester)

Graduates from the above CT State campuses may have advanced standing in the CT State Tunxis Dental Hygiene Program with the following conditions:

1. meet all other dental hygiene admission criteria
2. be accepted into the dental hygiene program
3. have graduated from the CT State Certified Dental Assisting Program within 3 years of admission into the Dental Hygiene Program and be a Certified Dental Assistant.
4. be granted substitution of the following dental assisting courses into the dental hygiene program: Dental Materials, Radiology, Oral and Dental Anatomy.

Admission Requirements and Prerequisite Courses

Code	Title	Credits
BIO 1210	General Biology I	4
ENG 1010	Composition	3
CHEM 1110	Concepts of Chemistry	4
MATH 1002 or MATH 1010 or MATH 1011	Math for Science and Technology Intermediate Algebra Applied Algebra with Modeling	3
BIO 2111	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 2112	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 2350	Microbiology	4
DHYG 2005	Nutrition for Health Professionals	3
PSY 1011	General Psychology I	3

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Admission Requirements and Prerequisite Courses		
BIO 1210	General Biology I	4
ENG 1010	Composition	3
CHEM 1110	Concepts of Chemistry	4
Choose one of the following:		3
MATH 1002	Math for Science and Technology	
MATH 1010	Intermediate Algebra	
MATH 1011	Applied Algebra with Modeling (or higher)	
BIO 2111	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 2112	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 2350	Microbiology	4
DHYG 2005	Nutrition for Health Professionals	3

PSY 1011	General Psychology I ¹	3
Semester 1		
Choose one of the following:		4-6
DHYG 2012	Diagnostic Radiography for the Dental Hygienist	
DNAS 1047	Principles of radiation for the Dental Assistant	
DNAS 1033 & DNAS 1043	Dental Radiography and Advanced Dental Radiography	
DHYG 2009	Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene Theory	3
DHYG 2010C	Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene Clinic	2
Choose one of the following:		3-4
DHYG 2028	Histology and Oral Anatomy for the Dental Hygienist	
DNAS 1031	Oral Anatomy and Pathophysiology	
DNAS 1046	Oral Anatomy for the Dental Assistant	
CCS 1001	College and Career Success ¹	3
Semester 2		
DHYG 2008	Dental Hygiene Professionalism, Ethics, and Jurisprudence	2
DHYG 2033	Oral Medicine and Pathology	2
Choose one of the following:		2-4
DHYG 2025	Dental Materials for the Dental Hygienist	
DNAS 1030	Dental Materials for the Dental Assistant	
DNAS 1032	Dental Materials	
DHYG 2139	Dental Hygiene II Theory	3
DHYG 2140C	Dental Hygiene II Clinic	3
Semester 3		
DHYG 2375	Pain Control and Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist	3
DHYG 2364	Pharmacology	3
SOC 1001	Principles of Sociology ¹	3
Semester 4		
DHYG 2259	Dental Hygiene III Theory	3
DHYG 2260C	Dental Hygiene III Clinic	4
DHYG 2362	Periodontics	2
DHYG 2267	Community Oral Health	3
Elective ARHX - Arts & Humanities Course ¹		3-4
Semester 5		
DHYG 2379	Dental Hygiene IV Theory	2
DHYG 2380C	Dental Hygiene IV Clinic	4
DHYG 2268	Civic Engagement for the Dental Hygienist	3
COMM 1301	Public Speaking ¹	3
Total Credits		95-101

¹ These general education courses may be completed at any time. Ideally, students complete them before beginning program courses.