



WAKE | TECH[®]

DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental Hygiene Program Admissions



This presentation is designed to review commonly asked questions in the admissions process.

Competitive Admissions

- Applications accepted August 1 – January 31
- Complete an online information session
- Courses that can be completed ahead of program entry:
 - BIO 163 – Anatomy & Physiology
 - BIO 175 - Microbiology
 - CHM 130 - Chemistry
 - COM 120 - Communications
 - ENG 111 - Writing
 - HUM 115 – Critical Thinking
 - PSY 150 - Psychology
 - SOC 210 – Sociology
- 24 Students accepted each year in August
- Once admitted:
 - 21 Dental Hygiene Classes

Perry Health Sciences
Admissions
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DENTAL HYGIENE
A.A.S. DEGREE

2020FA A45260

PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE

CURRICULUM BY SEMESTER

Program Planning Guide

- Once admitted, will take DEN courses in the assigned semester
- Must pass each course in the semester with a “C” or better to continue in the program
- 78% is a “C”
- 5 semesters total

Course Number and Title	HOURS PER WEEK			Credit
	Class	Lab	Clinical	
First Semester				
BIO 163 Basic Anatomy and Physiology I	4	2	0	5
DEN 110 Orofacial Anatomy	2	2	0	3
DEN 111 Infection/Hazard Control	2	0	0	2
DEN 112 Dental Radiography	2	3	0	3
DEN 120 Dental Hygiene Preclinic Lecture	2	0	0	2
DEN 121 Dental Hygiene Preclinic Lab	0	6	0	2
	12	13	0	17
Second Semester				
BIO 175 General Microbiology	2	2	0	3
ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry	3	0	0	3
DEN 124 Periodontology	2	0	0	2
DEN 130 Dental Hygiene Theory I	2	0	0	2
DEN 131 Dental Hygiene Clinic I	0	0	9	3
DEN 223 Dental Pharmacology	2	0	0	2
DEN 224 Materials and Procedures	1	3	0	2
	12	5	9	17
Summer Term				
CHM 130 General Organic & Biochemistry	3	0	0	3
COM 120 Interpersonal Communication	3	0	0	3
DEN 140 Dental Hygiene Theory II	1	0	0	1
DEN 141 Dental Hygiene Clinic II	0	0	6	2
	7	0	6	9
Third Semester				
PSY 150 General Psychology	3	0	0	3
DEN 123 Nutrition/Dental Health	2	0	0	2
DEN 125 Dental Office Emergencies	0	2	0	1
DEN 220 Dental Hygiene Theory III	2	0	0	2
DEN 221 Dental Hygiene Clinic III	0	0	12	4
DEN 222 General and Oral Pathology	2	0	0	2
	9	2	12	14
Fourth Semester				
DEN 230 Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1	0	0	1
DEN 231 Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	0	0	12	4
DEN 232 Community Dental Health	2	3	0	3
DEN 233 Professional Development	2	0	0	2
SOC 210 Introduction to Sociology	3	0	0	3
Humanities Fine Arts Elective*	3	0	0	3
	11	3	12	16

TOTAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 73 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS

*Preferred Course: HUM 115 Critical Thinking
 **Please see an advisor for alternative Humanities/Fine Arts Elective courses that may be accepted prior to registering for the course.
 ***A grade of “C” or better is required for all curriculum courses in the Dental Hygiene Degree.

Why does it appear I can take the general education courses and core courses at the same time?

- The program design for an AAS program in NC needs to reflect that the program can be completed in two years. However, students are more successful in the program if the non-DEN courses are taken ahead of the DEN courses in the curriculum. They are part of the competitive admissions process.

Why can't I enroll in DEN classes prior to being accepted into the program?

- The Dental Hygiene Program has a lock-step curriculum. The DEN classes are sequenced to build upon information in each course and gain knowledge to form the foundation for other courses. They must be taken in order as listed on the Program Planning Guide. In addition, per our accreditation standards, to take the DEN courses you must be accepted into the program and coded as a Dental Hygiene student.

If I have a bachelor's degree, will the program still take 2 years to complete?

- Yes, it is a lock-step curriculum with courses that must be taken in the order of the Program Planning Guide. The program also has 5 clinical courses that each are pre-requisites to each other, so each student will be enrolled for at least 4 semesters and a summer term in between.

Why is the program so competitive?

- Dental Hygiene is a licensed profession that is very rigorous in its education. It has made the lists of best programs for the earnings you can make compared to the degree needed to enter the profession and has put the profession in high demand. But, based on the accreditation standards for our program, we limit enrollment based on resources available, to include the number of chairs available in clinic.

Why do you only accept 24 students each year?

- Our accreditation standards dictate that the number of students enrolled must be proportionate to the resources available to the program. Under consideration are patient supply, financial support, size of facilities (number of clinic and lab stations), equipment and technology available and number of qualified faculty.
- Our clinic has 23 dental chairs, thereby allowing for 24 students, as at least one student rotates during each clinic session into on-campus or off-campus rotation that doesn't require a chair. We normally accept 24 so that we have an even number of students for partner activities.

Is there a waitlist?

- No. Students not admitted to a program must reapply the following year and compete for a slot in the program with a new pool of applicants.

Can I transfer to the program from another hygiene program?

- While this is possible, we don't accept very many transfer students. First – we need space in our program to accept someone. Second – you need to be competitive with our admissions standards so must apply and compete with the pool of applicants. Third – you need to be in good standing with the program you are leaving. Fourth - many programs course schedules are different, so you most likely won't finish in the normal time (2 years).

Does my citizenship/student status impact my ability to get into the program and obtain the DH license?

- The program follows guidelines for admission related to residency status. You may graduate from the program and not be a U.S. citizen but may not be eligible for a dental hygiene license.
- In the state of NC, to obtain a DH license you need to be a U.S. citizen or hold a green card. If you are on a student Visa (F-1 Visa) or a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) individual, at this time you are not eligible for licensure after graduation. For more information visit the NC State Board of Dental Examiners at <https://www.ncdentalboard.org/>.

What is the cost of the program?

- This is outlined on our website under the tab “Costs”. It tends to increase annually but estimates for the first-year total just over \$8,000.00 and for second year the total is approximately \$6,000.00.
 - <https://www.waketech.edu/programs-courses/credit/dental-hygiene/costs>
- It is a good idea to apply for financial aid and scholarships early, since it is not advised to work while in the program. Meet with a financial aid counselor to determine necessary steps.
 - <https://www.waketech.edu/financial-aid>

What is the day in the life of a dental hygiene student like?

- Students are in classes M-F, 8 am – 5 pm. While not all time is scheduled during the week, students are asked to hold these times in case of any make-up sessions, Individualized Learning Center Skills labs sessions, open labs, and clinic chart room time. Many students choose to study during the day between classes on campus. Students also have several labs and clinics in addition to lecture classes, so it is busier than the schedule looks. They spend most evenings and weekends studying as well – it is a full-time commitment to be in the program.

Can I work while in the program?

- It is not recommended to work during the program, especially not full-time. Classes are scheduled M-F, 8 am – 5 pm. But if we have weather delays or cancellations, etc. we need to make up all clinics/labs/classes missed and may need to schedule on an evening or weekend.

What skills are necessary to be a successful dental hygienist?

- Students need to excel in sciences, be organized, be dedicated to the program and diligent in their studies. They need to have strong **psychomotor skills** and **spatial relations**. Students need to be good problem solvers. In addition, when working with patients they need to be firm when needed and empathetic other times. Good listening and communication skills are necessary. Being flexible is needed as each patient is different – we can't be black and white in our profession as we will deal with a lot of gray. But, of utmost importance is being **ethical and of good moral character**.

What are the patient requirements?

- Patient requirements vary by semester and year and may change. They are reviewed at the start of each semester along with syllabus review for our clinical courses.
- Students will treat patients in all age range categories – pedodontic, adolescent, adult and geriatric. Pedodontic begin at age 4.
- Students will also be required to treat patients with special needs.
- A variety of levels of gum health and tartar will also be treated.

How are patients located for the clinic?

Students are required to help locate patients for the clinic and are supplemented by a clinic pool of patients.

Only Wake Tech approved ads can be used to recruit patients, that are supplied to the students once accepted into the program.



Perry Health Sciences Campus

