Area of Interest: Health Sciences

Dental Hygiene

Ontario College Advanced Diploma Program Code: 1927X01FWO

3 Years

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Give people a reason to smile.

The three-year Dental Hygiene Ontario College Advanced Diploma program, delivered over two and half years, combines theory and hands-on skills to prepare you for a challenging and rewarding career in preventive dental health care. It allows you to fulfil the role of the dental hygienist as researcher, advocate, educator, administrator, clinician and health promoter.

This program teaches you how to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care in collaboration with the client, community, and other healthcare providers. This happens through a variety of learning experiences including seminars, case presentations and on-site and off-site practicums. You provide preventive services in our on-site dental clinic under the supervision of Registered Dental Hygienists and Dentists. These experiences increase your employability upon graduation and help prepare you for the workforce.

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. Graduates are eligible to write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam, which, once passed, allows you to register with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario.

Once registered as a Dental Hygienist, you may find employment working in:

- general and specialty practices
- healthcare facilities
- community health settings
- research and education
- dental sales
- dental supply companies
- independent dental hygiene practices

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Are self-directed.
- Are critical thinkers.
- Are able to manage time and a demanding workload.
- Possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Are detail-oriented, organized and committed to achieving excellence in their work.
- Enjoy working with people of different ages and backgrounds.

Employment

Graduates may find employment as dental hygienists working in general and specialty practices, independent dental hygiene practices, healthcare facilities, such as hospital dental clinics and long-term care facilities, community health settings, research and education, dental sales and dental supply companies.

Graduates must hold a credential as a Registered Dental Hygienist to practise in Ontario. In the final level of the program, students apply to the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB) to write the national exam upon graduation. Successful candidates are then eligible to apply for registration with the dental hygiene regulatory body in Ontario, the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO).

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Practice in a professional and competent manner within the defined scope of practice and consistent with current regulations and standards of practice.

- Evaluate the client`s oral health status using determinants of health and risk analysis to identify needs, justify treatment decisions and provide appropriate referrals to other health care professionals as required.

- Design, implement and evaluate a range of primary, interceptive, therapeutic, preventative and on-going oral health-care services to meet the unique needs of clients.

- Analyze oral health issues in need of advocacy, identify networks and promote actions that will support change and facilitate access to care.

- Identify, select, implement and evaluate quality assurance standards and protocols which contribute to a safe and effective working environment.

- Establish and maintain professional and inter-professional relationships which contribute to client-care safety and positive health-care outcomes.

- Facilitate the development of specific oral health attitudes, knowledge, skills, and behaviours in clients by selecting and utilizing principles of teaching and learning.

- Develop and present a model for dental hygiene practice that addresses relevant business principles, current legislation and standards of practice.

- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
BIO4323	Human Anatomy and Physiology	42.0
BIO4335	Microbiology	28.0
DEN4300	Dental Anatomy	28.0
DEN4409	Preclinic Practicum I	78.0
DEN4411	Preclinic Practice Foundations I	42.0
DEN4453	Dental Radiography	42.0
ENL1813S	Communications 1	42.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1927	General Education Elective	42.0

Level: 02	Courses	Hours
BIO4324	Head and Neck Anatomy	28.0
BIO4328	Oral Histology and Embryology	28.0
DEN4321	Radiography Practicum 2	28.0
DEN4412	Advanced Dental Anatomy	28.0
DEN4414	Preclinic Practice Foundations 2	28.0
DEN4416	Dental Materials 1	42.0
DEN4422	Preclinic Practicum 2	78.0
DEN4471	Oral Disease Prevention	42.0
DEN4473	Dental Hygiene Professionalism and Collaboration	28.0
Level: 03	**Courses**	**Hours**
BIO4333	Human Pathophysiology	42.0
BIO4336	Oral Pathology	42.0
DEN4423	Nutrition and Dental Health	28.0
DEN4424	Periodontics I	28.0
DEN4428	Pharmacology	28.0
DEN4430	Preclinic Practicum III	78.0
DEN4432	Preclinic Practice Foundations III	28.0
DEN4434	Dental Materials II	42.0
DEN4479	Diverse Populations	28.0
Level: 04	**Courses**	**Hours**
DEN4436	Periodontics II	28.0
DEN4442	Clinic Practicum I	117.0
DEN4446	Research Methods	42.0
DEN4481	Community Dental Health Promotion	56.0
DEN4483	Clinic Practice Essentials I	42.0
DEN4484	Professional Practice and Jurisprudence	28.0
DEN4485	Population Health	28.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1927	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 05	**Courses**	**Hours**
DEN4456	Clinic Practicum II	126.0

DEN4459	Clinic Practice Essentials II	28.0
DEN4460	Business Concepts	42.0
DEN4462	Evidence-Informed Practice I	28.0
DEN4480	Oral Health Outreach I	56.0
ENL5507	Career Writing Practicum	42.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1927	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 06	**Courses**	**Hours**
DEN4448	Orthodontics	30.0
DEN4464	Dental Hygiene Practice Management	42.0
DEN4469	Evidence-Informed Practice II	28.0
DEN4472	Clinic Practicum III	126.0
DEN4475	Clinic Practice Consolidation	28.0
DEN4477	Comprehensive Case Studies	42.0
DEN4482	Oral Health Outreach II	56.0

Fees for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator .

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar`s Office website at https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro .

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

- The fees to write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam (NDHCE) and to obtain CDHO registration are approximately $1,250, plus applicable taxes. These fees are current at the time of publication and are subject to change. Further information may be obtained by browsing the CDHO (https://www.cdho.org/) and NDHCB (https://www.ndhcb.ca/) websites.

- Hardcopy books, supplies and clinical items (uniforms, clinic shoes, lab coat, exam gloves, protective eyewear, masks, gowns and loupes (optional) cost approximately $11,500 (subject to change) for the program duration.

- See https://www.algonquincollege.com/coursematerials for more information about books. Select items can be purchased at the campus store.

Admission Requirements for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR

- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR

- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR

- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee will be charged.

Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent) with a grade of 65% or higher.

- Mathematics, Grade 11 or 12 (MBF3C or MAP4C equivalent) with a grade of 65% or higher.

- Biology, Grade 11 or 12 with a grade of 65% or higher.

- Chemistry, Grade 11 or 12 with a grade of 65% or higher.

- All applicants must complete an assessment of their knowledge and skills through the Test Centre, and pay an exam fee. Results from the Algonquin College Health Program Admissions Test (AC-HPAT) will be utilized to establish minimum eligibility and applicant ranking. The AC-HPAT can only be written once per academic cycle. For further information on the HPAT and how to book your assessment, please visit Algonquin`s Test Centre.

- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).

- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 120, minimum of 120 in Literacy and no score below 105.

Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/ .

International Applicants: International applicants who meet the program eligibility requirements are required to complete preparatory courses (4-months in duration): Introduction to Canadian Health Studies (ICHS). Students who successfully complete the introduction will then proceed to their original health program of choice. The ICHS requires applicants to submit an academic IELTS score.

Please click this link for more information
https://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/ICHS/ .

Accepted applicants must complete ParaMed Requirements:

- Vulnerable Sector Police Check (annual).

- Clinical/Field Pre-Placement Health Form by week 8 of Program Start Date.

- Immunization for Hepatitis B is required.

- An immunization form for returning students must be submitted prior to the start of Level 04.

- Provide evidence of a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate at the Basic Life Support (BLS). All CPR certification or recertification courses must include a hands-on component. Online CPR courses are not acceptable. This requirement must remain current until all program requirements are met.

- N95 mask fit testing.

- Provide evidence of a current Standard First Aid (13-hour course) certification. This requirement must remain current until graduation from the program.

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Police Records Check Documentation:
Though not an admission requirement, applicants must note important information listed below regarding Police Record Check program requirements.

Successful completion of clinical placement is a requirement for graduation from the Dental Hygiene program. Agencies that provide placement opportunities require you to have a clear Police Records Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector (PRCSVS). Your acceptance for placement is at the discretion of the agency. If you register in the program without a clear PRCSVS and as a result are unable to participate in placement, you will not be able to graduate.

Lab, Clinic and Placement Eligibility:
To be eligible to participate in lab, clinic and placement activities, you must submit proof of a clear PRCSVS, which will be retained on your departmental file and used only for purposes related to your lab, clinic and placement activities.

It is your responsibility to obtain the PRCSVS from your local Police Department prior to the deadline identified by your Department and to pay any associated costs. It may take 8-10 weeks to obtain this documentation; please submit your application as early as possible. Should you require further information, contact the Program Chair.

Admission Requirements for 2024/2025 Academic Year

College Eligibility

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Application Information

Program Code 1927X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/ .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/ .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar`s Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro

Additional Information

Please be advised that the Dental Hygiene program may have evening and Saturday classes scheduled.

Academic Year Schedule:

Year 1:
Level 01: September - December
Level 02: January - April
Level 03: May - August

BREAK TERM: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Year 2:
Level 04: January - April
Level 05: May - August
Level 06: September-December

Students should be aware that if a course is in a failing position at the end of the term, a Supplemental Privilege (FSP) may be granted if warranted. FSP evaluations may be scheduled for the week prior to the start of the next term. Students must be available for FSP evaluations during this time period.

Completion of all Level 01, 02 and 03 requirements is mandatory before progressing to the subsequent levels of the program.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Michelle Atkinson, mailto:atkinsm@algonquincollege.com , 613-727-4723, ext.6317

Course Descriptions

BIO4323 Human Anatomy and Physiology

Dental hygienists require a solid understanding of the human body to identify connections between general and oral health. Focus is on the structure and function of the four primary tissues, body membranes and systems and how they interact to promote health. Body systems covered include musculoskeletal, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, urinary and reproductive.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

BIO4324 Head and Neck Anatomy

Knowledge of anatomical aspects of the head and neck are essential to the practice of dental hygiene. Focus is placed on the relationship between structure and function of orofacial bones, muscles, nerves, blood vessels and lymphatics. Through lectures, examination of anatomical models and interactive mediums students gain knowledge to perform comprehensive client examinations.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

BIO4328 Oral Histology and Embryology

Knowledge of the tissues of the body, development of the structures of the head and neck, embryology of the teeth and recognizing abnormalities are important to the practice of dental hygiene. Evaluations, clinical slides, diagrams and class discussions prepare students for the understanding of advanced courses.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

BIO4333 Human Pathophysiology

Knowledge of the disease process and specific disease conditions is essential for evaluation of a comprehensive health history. Students explore how alterations in homeostatic mechanisms can disrupt the human body. Mechanisms of disease are studied by systems and examined for the effect they produce on the structure and function of the body, as well as the impact they have on the oral environment. Common diseases are used to illustrate concepts.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

BIO4335 Microbiology

Knowledge of various microorganisms, their biological behaviour and interactions with the host, are essential to the understanding of infection control and disease development within dental practice. Students recognize disease causing microorganisms, normal microbial flora of the oral cavity, the basis of antimicrobial actions and general principles relevant to epidemiology. Students learn evidence-informed infection control practices for safe handling and use of instruments, equipment and the dental environment.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4396 or DEN4409

BIO4336 Oral Pathology

The basic principles of general pathology, recognizing variations of normal findings and oral pathology processes are essential to the practice of dental hygiene. Students learn to recognize lesions, conditions, risk factors and manifestations of oral disease processes in order to describe, document and identify the need for referral. Emphasis is placed on the radiographic and immunologic features of the oral and perioral findings. The differential diagnosis of relevant oral lesions, biopsy indications, techniques and adjunctive diagnostic procedures are explored.

Collaboration between dental hygienists and other health professionals is articulated to achieve the best outcomes of oral and systemic health.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4300 Dental Anatomy

Knowledge of dental terminology is the foundation for understanding and learning the content of other dental-related courses. Students learn dental anatomy, functional relationships of dental structures and representation of hard and soft tissue components of the client's chart. Students practise recording oral conditions on charting forms.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4453

DEN4321 Radiography Practicum 2

Production of diagnostically useful radiographs requires careful image exposure and processing techniques. Through laboratory practice on manikins, students apply the basic concepts of radiography theory to the production and critique of adult periapical, bitewing and occlusal radiographs. Radiographic techniques are assessed during simulated exercises on an adult client. Safety precautions required in the operation of dental x-ray equipment are emphasized.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4414 and DEN4422

DEN4409 Preclinic Practicum I

Foundational dental hygiene skills are essential for the health of the dental hygienist and for the safety of clients during client care. Fundamental techniques and care of hand-activated dental instruments and principles of ergonomics are taught and performed on a manikin. Through role play, students practise basic emergency responses. Application of current evidence-informed infection control practices, safe handling of instruments, and equipment are emphasized.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4411

DEN4411 Preclinic Practice Foundations I

Through lectures, in-class exercises and assignments, the fundamentals of client care are introduced with an emphasis on client and operator positioning, importance of ergonomics, instrumentation, personal safety, infection control procedures and response to basic medical emergencies. Students are also introduced to the dental hygiene profession and to the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) Best Practice Guidelines. Workshop and guest speakers provide essential skills and strategies for successful learning and professionalism.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4409

DEN4412 Advanced Dental Anatomy

Dental hygienists are required to document client's classification of occlusion and all dental variations and anomalies that may be present. Students learn in-depth knowledge of the anatomy of primary and permanent dentition and its functional relationships. This understanding enables students to perform intra oral examinations and record normal and abnormal oral conditions.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4414 Preclinic Practice Foundations 2

Fundamentals of the dental hygiene process of care guide student practice with an emphasis on assessment skills and development of the dental hygiene care plan. Response to basic medical emergencies is further explored. Integration of concepts studied in other courses prepares students for practical application of the dental hygiene process of care.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4321 and DEN4422

DEN4416 Dental Materials 1

Knowledge of dental materials is fundamental to ensuring the success of a client's dental work. Properties and management of dental materials used in preventive and direct restorative dentistry are introduced. Material manipulation skills are developed through demonstration and technique practice with alginate and gypsum products. Knowledge of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is a requirement.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4422 Preclinic Practicum 2

The opportunity to integrate the knowledge of dental hygiene skills is required for entry to client care practice. Development of competencies, knowledge of assessment, and record keeping are integrated into a supervised clinic setting through manikin simulations, practice on partners, and self-reflections. Additional skills consist of measuring vital signs, coronal stain removal, alginate impressions, topical fluoride, and desensitizing agent applications. Maintaining professional standards and safety is emphasized. Consolidation of current infection control protocols is reinforced.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4321 and DEN4414

DEN4423 Nutrition and Dental Health

A positive nutritional status is essential for the development and maintenance of oral tissues and prevention of oral disease. Through a focus on general principles of nutrition and a healthy diet, students explore sound dietary practices, nutritional screening and counselling throughout the lifespan. Students conduct a thorough dietary analysis on a partner and role play counselling through a variety of case scenarios.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4424 Periodontics I

Knowledge of healthy and diseased tissues of the periodontium and the ability to educate clients is vital to dental hygiene practice. Through the use of clinical slides students identify healthy tissues and pathologic changes in the periodontium and learn to assess signs of health and disease. Students focus on the development of preventive and therapeutic strategies enabling them to formulate individualized care plans.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4428 Pharmacology

Dental hygienists must understand and interpret pharmacology and health histories to make appropriate decisions about client care. Students learn about medications and their origin, physical and chemical properties, modes of administration and effects upon the body systems. Emphasis is placed on pharmaceutical agents commonly used in the dental environment, as well as medications prescribed by the physician. An overview of regularly prescribed medications and their associated oral manifestations are explored.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4430 Preclinic Practicum III

The process of care and development of advanced instrumentation skills and procedures form the foundation from which students begin to build sound clinical practices. This practicum is the transition from preclinical to the clinical environment where students apply knowledge, skills and judgement in a client care setting under supervised conditions. Mentoring experiences provide an opportunity to learn from senior level dental hygiene students.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4432

DEN4432 Preclinic Practice Foundations III

The theoretical foundation to guide students through the transition of the delivery of dental hygiene services from manikins and fellow students to clients is provided. An intermediate stage of critical thinking in delivery of client care services is expected with an emphasis on the assessment and planning stages of the dental hygiene process of care. Principles of radiographic interpretation and chart auditing are discussed.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4430

DEN4434 Dental Materials II

Knowledge of the theory and clinical properties of dental materials in restorative dentistry and various dental specialties is vital to the dental hygiene profession. Materials are discussed from a theoretical basis with some practical demonstration to develop manipulation skills. Using objective criteria students self and peer evaluate completed projects to identify deficiencies. Emphasis is placed on compliance with Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulations and safe handling, storage and disposal of materials.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4436 Periodontics II

Knowledge of healthy and diseased supporting tissues of the teeth is essential for preserving the periodontium. Students learn how the disease process affects the periodontal tissues of the healthy and medically compromised client. Analyzing clinical findings, developing treatment strategies and discussing implementation of appropriate supportive therapy, enables students in the development of care plans. Students focus on the clinical findings and needs of the client.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4442 and DEN4483

DEN4442 Clinic Practicum I

Through continued practice in the clinical environment, students enhance their application of knowledge, skills and judgment to support clinical dental hygiene practice in a supervised setting. Students deliver comprehensive and individualized care, for clients with increasingly complicated health histories and diverse needs, based on the dental hygiene process of care framework. Self-reflective practice continues through development of online journals.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4436 and DEN4483

DEN4446 Research Methods

Dental hygienists require the fundamental knowledge of research designs and data analysis to

generate accurate and meaningful conclusions for the application of evidence-informed practice. Through lectures, discussions and in-class activities, students learn quantitative and qualitative research methodology, rigor, ethics and methods of collecting, organizing and analyzing data. In addition to examining descriptive and basic inferential statistics, students solve oral health related questions by carrying out a critical appraisal exercise of published literature that integrates research concepts and skills relevant to dental hygiene practice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4448 Orthodontics

Integration of theoretical and practical knowledge of orthodontics contributes significantly to the development of a dental hygiene care plan. The role of the dental hygienist in recognizing malocclusion and regulatory responsibilities are emphasized. Focus is on facial growth, development of occlusion, biomechanics and treatment rationale. In a pre-clinic setting, students learn and develop orthodontic skills.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4453 Dental Radiography

The nature and principles of x-radiation and methods to safely produce diagnostically useful radiographs are essential to being a Healing Arts Radiation Protection (HARP) Act approved operator. Students learn the basic principles and steps in the production of x-radiation. The study of radiographic techniques leads to an introduction of radiography interpretation of tooth structures, surrounding tissues, common dental materials and conditions. Through laboratory practice on manikins, students apply the basic concepts of radiography theory to work safely with x-ray equipment and produce bitewing radiographs. Students critique radiographs in order to develop the ability to recognize and prevent technique errors.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4456 Clinic Practicum II

Ongoing practice in a supervised clinical setting provides an opportunity to further build clinical and communication skills with emphasis on evidence-based client-centered care. Pain management concepts are developed in relationship to treatment planning. Students refine their clinical practice decision-making skills to an advanced level that supports early concepts of self-initiation. Students deliver care to clients of all life stages with complex oral health care needs. Self-assessment occurs through development of online journals specifically related to interprofessional and mentoring experiences.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4459

DEN4459 Clinic Practice Essentials II

An examination of clinical issues related to ongoing clinical practice and decision-making skills must be reflected upon and discussed regularly to build and refine practice. Students discuss the principles of interprofessional practice in various community clinical settings and develop leadership roles through mentoring. Students continue to develop and practise concepts of pain management and anxiety for treatment of clients presenting with advanced stages of periodontal disease. Record keeping guidelines, quality of care and time management strategies are emphasized. Peer evaluation, case studies and in-class discussions address clinical issues. Students prepare a professional portfolio in keeping with the expectations of the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario's Quality Assurance Program.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4456

DEN4460 Business Concepts

The key elements for the development of a business opportunity are explored. A combination of online research, case studies, group activities and self-directed learning enable students to learn the basic business concepts for establishing and operating a successful small business in their chosen healthcare field and following the guidelines provided by the appropriate College and/or regulatory agency. The roles of a regulated professional that is self-employed or an employee are considered.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4462 Evidence-Informed Practice I

Dental hygiene practice requires the integration of the best available evidence, clinical judgement and client preferences. Through in-class discussions, assignments and case activities, students learn how to convert information needs into clinical questions and perform a systematic purposeful search of the literature. Students further examine critical appraisal techniques by exploring methods to control for bias, assessing for validity and reliability and determining relevance to dental hygiene practice. Through the preparation of a literature review, students focus on refining their evidence-informed decision-making abilities.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4464 Dental Hygiene Practice Management

Comprehensive knowledge of CDHO Standards of Practice, dental reception, dental insurance and billing are fundamental to the practice management of a dental or dental hygiene practice. Students investigate the responsibilities and realities of dental hygienists employed in or operating an independent dental hygiene practice. The relevance of operating policies, documentation management and health and safety is considered as it relates to the dental hygienist as an employee or employer. Interprofessional practice collaborative opportunities are explored.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4469 Evidence-Informed Practice II

Dental hygienists must engage in learning opportunities and ongoing professional development throughout their career. Through in-class discussions, guest presentations and group activities, students develop in-depth critical appraisal, problem solving and evidence-informed decision-making skills to evaluate scholarly publications, seminar presentations and advertising claims for oral health products. Students integrate knowledge translation and dissemination techniques to deliver a seminar presentation to peers.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4471 Oral Disease Prevention

An individualized, evidence-informed approach to disease prevention is integral to the role of the dental hygienist as a preventive specialist. Topics include the study of modalities related to oral health education and interventions for primary, secondary and tertiary levels of prevention. Exploration of principles of client education support considerations for adoption of mechanical oral biofilm control techniques, dentifrices, mouth rinses and anti-cariogenic agents, such as fluoride. An introduction to strategies for primary prevention of oral trauma and oral cancer emphasize the role of the dental hygienist in tobacco, vaping, and cannabis use prevention, with emphasis on biochemical dependance and cessation strategies. Understanding of oral manifestations, risk factors and preventive care informs assessment of oral self-care needs at different life stages.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4472 Clinic Practicum III

Consolidation of learning is enhanced by self-initiating client care in accordance with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario regulations, guidelines and best practices in a supervised clinical experience. Local anesthetic and temporary restorations are practised at a preclinical level on specialized manikins. Students continue self-evaluation through online journals.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4475

DEN4473 Dental Hygiene Professionalism and Collaboration

Interaction in the dental healthcare setting requires ethical and effective therapeutic communication skills. Students examine ethical principles, sensitive practice and cultural safety/ humility, as well as theories of health behaviour change, teaching and learning. The concept of intra- and inter-professional collaboration is introduced, with a focus on person- and family-centered care, team functioning and conflict resolution. Students participate in role-play exercises, reflective practice and expand existing learning portfolios.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4475 Clinic Practice Consolidation

Clinical case discussions enhance the foundational knowledge of the student. Strategies are explored to prepare students to write the National Dental Hygiene Board exam, a requirement for registration to practise Dental Hygiene in Ontario. Students continue to develop their professional portfolio in keeping with the expectations of the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario's Quality Assurance Program. Theoretical concepts of pain management, the delivery of local anesthetic and Interim Stabilization Therapy (IST) are studied. Students learn the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario registration guidelines to prepare for Dental Hygiene practice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4472

DEN4477 Comprehensive Case Studies

The development of critical-thinking skills and the application of theory to dental hygiene care is integral to self-initiation. Through an in-depth analysis of dental sciences the link between evidence-informed theory and complex case studies is established. Previously acquired knowledge is applied to case studies in a classroom setting. Individual assignments, group research projects and presentations consolidate dental hygiene practice knowledge.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4479 Diverse Populations

The delivery of oral health care that respects and includes each individual's physiological and psychosocial state, life stage and cultural diversity is vital to effective person-, family-, community-centered care. Concepts of ethnocentrism, prejudice, racism, stereotyping and discrimination guide development of cultural safety and humility to promote equity and inclusion in healthcare practice. Supportive approaches, based on clients' physical and cognitive characteristics, cultural preferences, linguistic and health literacy needs guide class discussions. Special topics include oral implications and clinical considerations of family violence, abuse, neglect, fear and anxiety.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4480 Oral Health Outreach I

Outreach clinical care, a key role of the dental hygienist, is implemented and evaluated in a variety of community placement settings. Service-learning opportunities provide interaction with clients

and populations that do not access traditional dental services, allowing students to gain insight into unique community needs. Group work and student debates explore the role of advocacy as it relates to influencing health policy. Leadership, interprofessional collaboration and decision-making principles are examined in order to enhance care team functioning and person-, family-, community-centred care outcomes.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4481 Community Dental Health Promotion

Creating and presenting effective oral health promotion interventions is a key role of the dental hygienist. Community and dental public health organizations and activities are investigated. An in-depth focus on health education, social media messaging, presentation techniques, and social marketing strategies prepare students to create and deliver a variety of education and health promotion materials.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4482 Oral Health Outreach II

Dental hygienists play a significant role in promoting and providing oral health care in community settings. An interprofessional collaborative health team model is implemented as students gain experience with community needs assessment, and diagnosis and development of an oral health promotion program for at risk populations. Ongoing community placements and specialty practice placements provide insight into potential diversification of future dental hygiene practice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4483 Clinic Practice Essentials I

As clinical practice advances in client care, case studies and in-class discussions address issues that support ongoing practice and decision-making skills. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation phase of the dental hygiene process of care. Students build on existing knowledge of vulnerable populations, oral cancer screening, tobacco and nutritional counselling with emphasis on planning, implementation and evaluation phases of care. Attention to the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario records regulation through the chart audit process, quality of care and time management strategies improves clinical practice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):DEN4436 and DEN4442

DEN4484 Professional Practice and Jurisprudence

A dental hygienist's legal responsibilities as a health care provider must be adhered to methodically. Students develop dutiful regard for the requirements of the Regulated Health Professions Act and the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) Standards of Practice. Cases illustrate the investigation and discipline process of the CDHO. Topics include standing orders, sexual abuse, social responsibility, risk management, malpractice, negligence and professional misconduct. Ethical dilemmas and decision-making are explored through examples and case studies.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DEN4485 Population Health

A basic understanding of the field of epidemiology and a population health perspective broadens dental hygiene practice. Epidemiologic principles are used to explore the burden of oral disease and access to care issues. The evolution of approaches to healthcare, and study of the current Canadian healthcare system, provide insight into the administration of dental healthcare.

Exploration of collaborative relationships with other healthcare providers and organizations creates a foundation for future oral health initiatives. Students prepare comprehensive profiles of diverse populations.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL1813S Communications 1

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL5507 Career Writing Practicum

Dental hygienists are responsible for providing information about oral health to clients, other professionals and the public. Clear, concise, and accurate oral and written communication skills are essential for effective and efficient functioning within dental practices. Students critique, summarize and orally present information from current professional dental journals, write informative documents both for colleagues and clients and apply self-assessment to improve their communication skills.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1927 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following four theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1927 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following four theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1927 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following four theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none