DENTAL HYGIENE, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene requires two years of liberal arts study, with a minimum of 60 semester hours, followed by two years of study focusing on basic and dental sciences, dental hygiene science and theory, community health and pre-clinical and clinical experiences. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible for national, regional and state board licensing examinations. Classes enter once each year in the fall semester.

Student learning outcomes
Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- Demonstrate commitment to the legal and ethical practice of dental hygiene, demonstrating integrity, honesty and confidentiality with colleagues, patients and the community
- Demonstrate competence in interpersonal and communication skills and in the evaluation, synthesis and application of information and technology as resources in contemporary dental hygiene practice
- Systematically collect, accurately record and analyze data on the general, oral and psychosocial health status of a variety of patients using methods consistent with medico-ethico-legal principles
- Use critical-thinking and decision-making skills to reach conclusions about the patient’s dental hygiene treatment needs based on an analysis of all available assessment data and evidence from current scientific literature
- Collaborate with the patient, guardian and/or other health care professionals to formulate an individualized comprehensive dental hygiene care plan based on assessment findings and the dental hygiene diagnosis
- Provide and implement specialized care that includes educational, preventive and therapeutic services designed to minimize risk and optimize oral health as well as assist the patient in achieving and maintaining oral health goals
- Evaluate the outcomes of dental hygiene care, which occur throughout the process of care, and modify as necessary
- Initiate and assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention activities for diverse populations in a variety of settings

Special requirements
Admission requirements include two years of liberal arts study with a minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable quality academic course credits. By completing these 60 semester hours, students will complete the general education requirements of the degree. More information concerning the admission requirements for VCU students is located in the general education requirements of the degree. More information about TOEFL testing, go to www.ets.org (http://www.ets.org).

You may be exempt from this requirement if:
- You have successfully completed 26 or more transferable semester credits at a two- or four-year postsecondary institution in the U.S. and have completed the full freshman English (non-ESL) requirement at that school with a minimum grade of C. or
- You have successfully completed 60 or more transferable semester credits at a two- or four-year postsecondary institution in the U.S.

No student will be considered for admission until proof of English proficiency is determined.

TOEFL: VCU’s Dental Hygiene Program minimum TOEFL score requirements are 550 (paper), 213 (computer) or 80 (internet-based). For more information about TOEFL testing, go to www.ets.org (http://www.ets.org).

IELTS: VCU’s Dental Hygiene Program minimum IELTS score requirement is 6.0.

Degree requirements for Dental Hygiene, Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.</td>
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<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

- Major core requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENH 301</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Theory I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 302</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Theory II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 312</td>
<td>Community Oral Health Education and Promotion</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 327</td>
<td>Clinical Dental Hygiene I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 342</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 347</td>
<td>Clinical Dental Hygiene Summer Clinic</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 401</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Theory III</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 402</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Theory IV</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 407</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 411</td>
<td>Dental Public Health I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 412</td>
<td>Dental Public Health II</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENH 422</td>
<td>Current Issues, the Law and Ethics</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENH 437</td>
<td>Clinical Dental Hygiene II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 447</td>
<td>Clinical Dental Hygiene III</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENH 457</td>
<td>Clinical Service-learning</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHBS 301</td>
<td>Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Hygienists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHBS 302</td>
<td>Microscopic Anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dental Hygiene, Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

DHBS 341  Pharmacology and Pain Control for Dental Hygiene  4
DHBS 365  Infection and Immunity  2
GENP 302  Dental Materials  2
GENP 311  Oral Anatomy and Occlusion  3
IPEC 501  Foundations of Interprofessional Practice  1
ORPT 301  Dental Radiology  1
ORPT 324  Oral Pathology  3
ORSG 431  Management of the Medically Compromised Dental Patient and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office  2
PERI 326  Periodontics I  1
PERI 329  Periodontics II  2

Ancillary requirements

Additional subjects and credits required for admission 1  39

- English (6-9 credits)
- General biology with laboratory (3-5 credits)
- College chemistry with laboratory (3-5 credits)
- Anatomy with laboratory (3-5 credits)
- Physiology with laboratory (3-5 credits)
- Microbiology with laboratory (3-5 credits)
- Humanities (3 credits)
- Introductory sociology (3 credits)
- Introductory psychology (3 credits)
- Speech (3 credits)
- Statistics (3 credits)
- Visual or performing arts (3 credits)
- Electives

Total Hours  128

1

Some course work completed toward admission will also fulfill general education requirements. Admission to the program requires 60 credits.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 128.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Credits required for admission to program: 60

Freshman year

Fall semester

Courses taken toward admission to program  15

Term Hours:  15

Spring semester

Courses taken toward admission to program  15

Term Hours:  15

Sophomore year

Fall semester

Courses taken toward admission to program  15

Term Hours:  15

Spring semester

Courses taken toward admission to program  15

Term Hours:  15

Junior year

Fall semester

DENH 301  Dental Hygiene Theory I  5
DHBS 301  Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Hygienists  3
DHBS 302  Microscopic Anatomy  2
DHBS 365  Infection and Immunity  2
GENP 311  Oral Anatomy and Occlusion  3
IPEC 501  Foundations of Interprofessional Practice  1
ORPT 301  Dental Radiology  1
PERI 326  Periodontics I  1

Term Hours:  18

Spring semester

DENH 302  Dental Hygiene Theory II  2
DENH 327  Clinical Dental Hygiene I  4
DENH 342  Nutrition  3
DHBS 341  Pharmacology and Pain Control for Dental Hygiene  4
ORPT 324  Oral Pathology  3
PERI 329  Periodontics II  2

Term Hours:  18

Summer semester

DENH 312  Community Oral Health Education and Promotion  2
DENH 347  Clinical Dental Hygiene Summer Clinic  2
GENP 302  Dental Materials  2

Term Hours:  6

Senior year

Fall semester

DENH 401  Dental Hygiene Theory III  2
DENH 407  Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Practice  2
DENH 411  Dental Public Health I  2
DENH 437  Clinical Dental Hygiene II (capstone)  5
DENH 457  Clinical Service-learning 1  1
ORSG 431  Management of the Medically Compromised Dental Patient and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office  2

Term Hours:  13

Spring semester

DENH 402  Dental Hygiene Theory IV  2
DENH 412  Dental Public Health II  2
DENH 422  Current Issues, the Law and Ethics  2
DENH 447  Clinical Dental Hygiene III (capstone)  5
DENH 457  Clinical Service-learning 1  2

Term Hours:  13

Total Hours:  128

1
DENH 457 is a yearlong course with grade and credit assigned after completion of second semester.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 128.