



Oxnard College
Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science Degree Program

Dental Department
(805) 678-5823



General Information

A dental hygienist is a licensed professional who is part of a dental care team. They provide preventive and therapeutic oral healthcare services such as oral examinations, radiographs, oral prophylaxis, non-surgical periodontal therapy (scaling, root planing, soft tissue curettage) and administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide sedation for pain control as needed. They also apply preventive treatments such as topical fluorides and dental sealants along with instructing patients in personalized oral health care, nutrition, and the connection between oral health and one's overall health and well-being.

Successful Dental Hygiene Program students are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (written) in their final year. Upon completion of the program, graduates qualify to take a regional clinical exam and the California Law & Ethics exam (written) to gain licensure.

The Dental Hygiene facility is located on the corner of South Rose Avenue and South Campus Road on the main campus of Oxnard College located at 4000 South Rose Avenue, Oxnard. The phone number is (805) 678-5823.

Susan McDonald, M.Ed., BSDH is the Dental Hygiene Program Director. For general information regarding application to the program or to assist you with creating an educational plan, please contact the General Counseling Office at (805) 678-5816 or by email at <https://www.oxnardcollege.edu/departments/student-services/counseling>

Goals

Graduates of the Oxnard College Dental Hygiene Program will be prepared to:

1. Provide dental hygiene services of the highest caliber.
2. Maintain an ethical and professional pattern of behavior and service.
3. Obtain and synthesize information using problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
4. Pursue life-long growth and development through participation in professional organizations, research, and continuing education.
5. Serve in a variety of community health care delivery settings for the provision of oral health care.

Career Opportunities

In addition to preparing students to assume roles treating diverse populations in many different health care settings including general and specialty practices, public schools, community settings, education, acute and extended care facilities, federal and state-run dental clinics and hospitals, a baccalaureate degree can lead to more career options for higher level positions in management, administration, teaching, and research development as well as providing a pathway to further one's education

About the Program

All dental hygiene didactic instruction is taught at Oxnard College. Practical clinical experience is gained through patient experience at the on-site Dental Health Clinic. In addition, students may be required to observe at specialty practice offices (i.e., Periodontal, Endodontic, Orthodontic, etc.) or other facilities located off-campus. Students will also engage in a variety of enrichment activities such as community health fairs, Dental Society and Dental Hygiene Association meetings, dental professional conventions, community service projects and outreach activities.

Accreditation

Oxnard College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Preparation & Prerequisites

High school courses in algebra, biology and chemistry are recommended to prepare the applicant for the prerequisite college classes. Students must have an associate's degree with one of the following general education patterns, IGETC, CSU GE or Cal-GETC, as well as the completion of the prerequisite courses for admission to the Dental Hygiene program. Consult an Oxnard College Academic Counselor for details.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Score Exemption may be accepted in lieu of OC College Program English Composition and Math prerequisites.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- BIS R122 Microsoft Office (3 units)
- SPAN R100 or SPAN R110 or SPAN R200 or SPAN R210 – **Highly recommended if no basic verbal skills in Spanish.**

OXNARD COLLEGE PROGRAM PREREQUISITES*	UNITS	Ventura College ¹	Moorpark College ¹	Alan Hancock College ¹	Santa Barbara City College ¹	CSUCI ¹
ANAT R101 General Human Anatomy (Lab included)	4	ANAT V01	ANAT M01	BIOL 124	BMS 107	BIO 210
PHSO R101 Human Physiology (Lab included)	5	PHSO V01	PHSO M01	BIOL 125	BMS 108	BIO 211
CHEM R110 Elementary Chemistry OR CHEM R120 General Chemistry	5	CHEM V101 CHEM V120A	CHEM M12 CHEM M01A	CHEM 120 CHEM 150	CHEM 101 CHEM 155	N/A CHEM 121
CHEM R112 Elem. Organic & Biochemistry	5	CHEM V102	CHEM M13	CHEM 140	N/A	N/A
DH R001 Pre-Dental Hygiene @ OXNARD COLLEGE	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MATH R105/H or STAT C1000/H (SOC R125 and PSY R103 also accepted)	4	MATH V44	MATH M15	MATH 123	MATH 117	MATH 201
MICR R100 Principles of Microbiology	3	MICR V01	MICR M01	BIOL 128	BMS 127 or BMS 157	BIO 217
MICR R100L Principles of Microbiology Lab	2					
ENGL R101 College Composition or ENGL C1000	4	ENGL V01A	ENGL M01A	ENGL 101	ENGL 110 or ENGL 110H	ENGL 105 ENGL 206
PSY R101 or PSY R101H General Psychology or PSYC C1000 or PSYC C1000H	3	PSY V01	PSY M01	PSY 101	PSY 100 or PSY 100H	PSY 100
SOC R101 Intro. to Sociology or SOC R101H Honors: Intro. to Sociology	3	SOC V01	SOC M01	SOC 101	SOC 101 or SOC 101H	SOC 100
COMM R102 Intro to Communication Studies	3	COMM VO2	N/A	COMM 100	COMM 101	COMM 200
COMM R101 Intro. to Oral Communication or COMM R201 or COMM C1000	3	COMM V01	COMM M01	SPCH 101	COMM 131 COMM 131H	COMM 101
Critical Thinking ENGL R102 or PHIL R111 or ENGL R128 or ENGL C1001	4	ENGL V01B	ENGL M01B	ENGL 103	ENGL 111	ENGL 107
Ethnic Studies (see O.C. Catalog) or CSU GE Area F or IGETC Area 7 or Cal-GETC Area 6	3	CSU GE Area F or IGETC Area 7 or Cal-GETC Area 6				GE Area F

¹EQUIVALENT COURSES ARE PROVIDED FOR REFERENCE BUT THEY ARE NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING WITH AN OXNARD COLLEGE COUNSELOR PRIOR TO TAKING THE PREREQUISITE COURSES AND APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM. COURSE NUMBERS & CONTENT CANNOT BE GARANTEED AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

ALL SCIENCE PREREQUISITIES MUST HAVE LABS. Prerequisite biomedical science courses can either be completed by traditional, in-person wet labs at the school or online using a physical lab kit that allows the student to conduct physical experiments in conjunction with an online synchronous meeting system with faculty oversight and teaching. This applies to the subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, biochemistry, and microbiology.

APPLICATION & SELECTION: Applications are available online at oxnardcollege.edu/departments/academic/dental-hygiene and can be dropped off or mailed to the Dental Hygiene Department on campus. The application period is from January 1st – March 15th of the spring semester prior to fall entry. Deadline extended to March 20, 2026.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

1. Completed all OC Dental Hygiene program prerequisites
2. Minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0 (All colleges ever attended must be reported)
3. 3.0 or better GPA* upon completion of all science prerequisites (including ANAT, CHEM, MICR, PHSO+LABS)
4. Completed all science prerequisites within a five-year period
5. High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent
6. Current CPR card (Basic Life Support CPR & AED Training for Healthcare Professionals) with in person skills portion
7. An associate degree and the completion of one of the following general education patterns: IGTEC, CSU GE, Cal-GETC.

**As GPA calculations and course equivalencies can vary between institutions, please be sure to confirm your eligibility with an Oxnard College counselor prior to application*

Upon verification of program selection criteria, all qualified candidates will be included in a selection pool. A prioritized lottery is utilized in the initial selection process. The first 40 candidates drawn in the lottery are evaluated using a structured point-based system combined with a personal interview component. Twenty of the forty candidates will be admitted. The remaining twenty will serve as alternates should an admitted student decline a place in the program.

Students who take 32 units of prerequisites, with 14 units in science prerequisites at Oxnard College, are in the first pool. Candidates who take 32 units of prerequisites, with 14 units in science prerequisites at any of the VCCCD colleges and/or SBCC, are included in the second pool and the remaining applicants are in the final pool. Only 20 students are admitted each year. There is no wait list. Students not selected must reapply each year.

ASSOCIATED COSTS

Normal student expenses (textbooks, in-state tuition, college fees, etc.) for the program are estimated to be about \$11,000. In addition to the normal student expenses, the dental hygiene program requires approximately \$12,000 during the two years. These additional costs are associated with instruments, equipment, uniforms, supplies, licensure and examination fees, professional dues and course expenses. Students who anticipate financial need should contact the College's Financial Aid Office at (805) 678-5828.

The VCCCD has adopted the state-mandated enrollment fee. Please check for the current fees on www.oxnardcollege.edu. All fees are subject to change without notice.

Financial Services (805) 678-5828

The student who is hesitant about attending college because the financial expenses involved in obtaining a college education may prove to be too much of a personal or family burden will find a welcome campus friend in the office of the Student Financial Services. The Office of Student Financial Services provides students with a complete array of financial support services that are designed to help cover some of the expenses involved in obtaining a college education. Financial support can include grants, work study, job placement, and scholarships. However, it does not include subsidized loan programs. Eligible applicants will be expected to adhere to standards of normal academic progress to receive the full benefits of these programs. <https://www.oxnardcollege.edu/departments/student-services/financial-aid-office>

Required Dental Hygiene Courses

Once accepted into the Dental Hygiene Program, a student must follow this two-year course sequence for a total of 55.5 dental hygiene units and 9 upper division general education units.

First Semester	Units	Second Semester	Units
DH 310 Oral Biology	3	DH 320 Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide	2
DH 311 Oral Radiology	3	DH 321 General and Oral Pathology	4
DH 312 Head and Neck Anatomy	2.5	DH 322 Pharmacology	2
DH 313 Dental Health Education Seminar	1	DH 323 Clinical Practice I	3
DH 314 Introduction to Dental Hygiene Practice	3	DH 324 Clinic Seminar I	3
DH 315 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	2	DH 325 Periodontics I	2
COMM 316 Organizational Communication	3		
	17.5		16
Third Semester	Units	Fourth Semester	Units
DH 430 Geriatrics & Care for Patients w/Special Needs	1	DH 440 Advanced Clinical Topics	2
DH 431 Nutrition in Dentistry	1	DH 441 Practice Management	1
DH 432 Dental Materials & Expanded Functions	2	DH 442 Clinic Seminar III	2
DH 433 Clinic Seminar II	2	DH 443 Clinical Practice III	4
DH 434 Clinical Practice II	4	DH 444 Community Oral Health II	1
DH 435 Periodontics II	2	DH 445 Ethics and Jurisprudence	1
DH 436 Community Oral Health I	2	HED 446 Optimizing Health Across the Lifespan	3
PSY 437 Research Design & Methodology	3		
	17		14

General College Information (805) 678-5800

Oxnard College is a locally controlled, public comprehensive two-year college, part of the California state system of higher education. As such, and in keeping with the policies of both the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees and the State Legislature, the college exists to serve members of the community who are high school graduates or who are over the age of 18 and capable.

General Counseling 805 678-5816

Provides information on the program and requirements with a review of transcripts. Provides assistance in creating an education plan.

<https://www.oxnardcollege.edu/departments/student-services/counseling>

Career Center (805) 678-5900

Students are provided with the resources and guidance necessary to make informed career and major choices through assessments, counseling, workshops, and opportunities for practical learning experiences. The Job Placement Specialist assists students with resume support, full-time and part-time employment opportunities aligned with individual skills and a program of study.

<https://www.oxnardcollege.edu/departments/student-services/career-center>

Oxnard College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Oxnard College no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad, edad u orientacion sexual.