



Dental Hygiene Advising Sheet

Dental hygienists use instruments to clean and polish teeth, take X-rays, administer local anesthetics, and instruct patients in correct brushing and cleaning habits.

A high school diploma or GED may be required by Dental Hygiene schools. There are both associate and bachelor degree programs in dental hygiene to prepare for careers in dental hygiene. The associate degree program leads to a career in a clinic or private office while the bachelor degree program leads to careers in dental public health, teaching, and makes the individual more marketable for jobs. Additionally, there are master degree programs which lead to careers in dental hygiene education. Dental hygiene education consists of four areas of study: basic education, basic science, dental science, and dental hygiene classes.

<u>Suggested courses for most Dental Hygiene School:</u>	<u>Suggested GCC courses:</u>
Chemistry with Lab Varies according to campus. Some programs require one semester while others require one year.	CHEM 120 and 121 CHEM 101 and 102
Anatomy	BIOL 120
Physiology	BIOL 121
Microbiology	BIOL 112
One Semester English Composition	ENGL 101
One course in General Psychology	PSYCH 101
One course in Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101
Public Speaking/Speech	SPCH 101
Recommended (required at some schools):	
Nutrition	NUTR 125

Note: You need a "C" or higher in these courses. All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/ No Credit.

Dental Hygiene School Selection Criteria

- Successful completion of all prerequisites with a minimum of "C" in all Dental Hygiene prerequisite courses.
- GPA of all general prerequisite college courses, prerequisite science courses, and overall.
- Previous dental experience and licenses.

Salary Information

The median wage in 2014 for Dental Hygienists in California was \$105,239 annually (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

Recommended Websites

American Dental Association	www.ada.org/357.aspx
American Dental Hygienists' Organization	www.adha.org
American Dental Education Association	www.adea.org

Select Dental Hygiene School Websites

Oxnard College	www.oxnardcollege.edu/departments/academic/dental_hygiene/index.shtml
Pasadena City College	www.pasadena.edu/divisions/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/index.cfm
University of Southern California	http://dentistry.usc.edu/programs
West Los Angeles College	www.wlac.edu/Allied-Health/Dental-Hygiene.aspx

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up to date information.

COLLEGE	DEGREE	TELEPHONE
Cabrillo College	AS	831-479-6471
Cerritos College	AA	562-860-2451
Chabot College	AA	510-723-6866
Cypress College	C/AS	714-484-7292
Diablo Valley College	C/AS	925-856-1230
Foothill Community College	AS	650-949-7476
Fresno City College	AS	559-244-2601
Loma Linda University	BS	909-558-4631
Loma Linda University	AS	760-324-2091
Oxnard College	AS	805-986-5823
Pasadena City College	AS	626-585-7545
Riverside Community College	AS	909-557-6425
Sacramento City College	AS	916-558-2356
San Joaquin (in Cucamonga)	AS	559-651-2500
Santa Rosa Junior College	AS	707-527-4447
Shasta College	AS	530-339-3639
Southwest College	AS	619-216-6668
Taft College	AS	661-762-7706
West Coast University	BS	714-782-1760
West Los Angeles College	AS	310-287-4238
Western Career College	AS	916-361-5163
Western Career College at San Jose	AS	408-960-0183
USC	BS	213-740-1089
University of the Pacific	BS	209-946-7394
UC San Francisco	BA	415-476-2737

C = Certificate

AA = Associate in Arts

AS = Associate in Science

BA = Bachelor in Arts

BS = Bachelor in Science

Note: prerequisites for these programs may be different. Please contact these schools to clarify their requirements.