



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.

Suggested courses for most Dental Hygiene School:

Suggested GCC courses:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 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.