

Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene

Web Site: <http://www.odu.edu/dental> (<http://www.odu.edu/dental/>)

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Denise C. McKinney, PhD, RDH, Graduate Program Director

The challenge of effecting change in the scope and direction of dental hygiene and health care requires competencies in collaborative problem solving, evidence-based ethical decision making, and leadership.

Recipients of the Master of Science degree in dental hygiene develop skills to meet complex national and global health challenges in interprofessional education, knowledge-generation, information transfer, and health care for all members of society. Within a multidisciplinary, multicultural curricular framework that integrates theory, research, and practical experience, the competency-based program links goals and career aspirations of the student with relevant learning experiences, technologies, and resources to facilitate career advancement. Through specialized skills training, graduates are prepared to assume leadership roles necessary for quality professional dental hygiene care and advancing knowledge and practice.

Solutions to complex health problems need the participation of dental hygienists educated in community health, research, management, education, public policy, and advocacy, just to name a few. Therefore, the program offers distinct specialty areas in which students may specialize: education, administration/management, research, marketing, community health, global health and modeling and simulation. Although graduate education focuses on developing a specialty, such specialization is viewed as secondary to generating evidence-based knowledge and theory through research. Demand for master's level dental hygienists in these key areas of specialization continues to be strong and students are able to develop competencies essential in today's employment market.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the graduate program director to obtain additional information regarding requirements, experiential credit, cognate offerings, travel abroad, practica and externship opportunities. The program is available on campus, online, or as a hybrid of the two. Up to 12 approved graduate credit hours may be taken at another university and applied toward degree requirements, making this program one of the most flexible in the nation. The student-focused, nationally and internationally recognized faculty are committed to the educational preparation of dental hygienists leading to degrees at advanced levels; and the opportunity to segue to doctoral education in health services research within the College of Health Sciences. *This program is available on-campus and online.*

Programs

Master of Science

- Dental Hygiene (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-ms/>)
- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Administration and Management (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-administration-management-ms/>)
- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Community and Public Health (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-community-public-health-ms/>)
- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Education (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-education-ms/>)
- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Global Health (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-global-health-ms/>)
- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Marketing (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-marketing-ms/>)

- Dental Hygiene with a Concentration in Research (MS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-research-ms/>)

Linked Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene to Master of Science Program

Entry-level and BSDH Post-Licensure online dental hygiene students who have a cumulative 3.30 grade point average and senior standing may complete the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene to Master of Science (BSDH-MS) dental hygiene linked program application. This program allows exceptional undergraduate students the opportunity to take up to 12 credit hours of graduate course work and apply them to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students in the linked program must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree). Consult with the graduate program director for more information.

Courses

Dental Hygiene (DNTH)

DNTH 512 Perspectives on Dental Hygiene Practice (3 Credit Hours)

Course is designed for the licensed dental hygienist who seeks to maintain an awareness of changing trends, perspectives, evidence-based interventions and technologies in dental hygiene, health, and society that influence the dental hygiene process of care. (Offered summer.)

Prerequisites: Admission into the dental hygiene program

DNTH 514 Educational Concepts for the Health Professional I (3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to explore various educational concepts, principles and methods of teaching for adults. Students will learn to present educational information to a diverse client population, in a variety of settings, in an ethical and professional manner. Topics include, but are not limited to, objectives, planning, implementation and evaluation of instruction; instructional strategies; delivery models; presentation skills; and techniques for communicating health information. (offered fall)

Prerequisites: Admission to the dental hygiene program

DNTH 515 Research Methods in the Health Sciences (3 Credit Hours)

Designed to develop skills in scientific methods, evidence based decision making, levels of evidence, and critical analysis of research findings. Emphasis on types of research, problem selection and hypothesis writing, research planning and design, data collection and measuring techniques, analysis and interpretation of data, research proposal writing and computer application. A written research proposal is required for graduate credit. (offered fall)

DNTH 516 Administrative Leadership and Professional Development (3 Credit Hours)

A study of current trends that influence the profession of dental hygiene including oral health care delivery, manpower, financing mechanisms, quality improvement, third party payers, professional associations, regulatory agencies and legislation. Emphasis is on ethical, political, and legal issues as they relate to the dental hygiene profession. (offered spring)

Prerequisites: Admission to the dental hygiene program

DNTH 540 Telehealthcare Technology (3 Credit Hours)

This course will examine the concept, global impact, and trends in telehealthcare technology on the client/patient, multidisciplinary practitioners, and various healthcare systems. Emphasis is on effective evidence-based decision making to reduce errors in patient care, promote care in remote or underserved geographical areas, and the ability to retrieve and evaluate healthcare information that improves access to quality, cost effective health care. (Offered spring)

Prerequisites: permission of the instructor

DNTH 597 Independent Study in Dental Hygiene (1-6 Credit Hours)

Independent reading and study on a topic selected under direction of a faculty member. (Offered fall, spring, summer)

Prerequisites: permission of instructor

DNTH 604 Clinical Administration and Teaching (3 Credit Hours)

The application of principles and theories of education and management to dental hygiene clinical education. Emphasis is on planning, implementing and evaluating clinical teaching, assessment of clinical competence, management of human and physical resources, and regulations affecting clinical education. This course is offered only during fall semester.

Corequisites: DNTH 669

DNTH 611 Modeling and Simulation Applications in Healthcare (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the principles and innovative applications for modeling and simulation in healthcare practice, research, education, and administration with emphasis on emerging issues and trends in technology. Topics include the selection and implementation of simulation technology in conceptual epidemiology public and environmental health, dental hygiene, dentistry, nursing, medicine, laboratory sciences, healthcare management and health information. (offered summer)

DNTH 621 Aging in the 21st Century (3 Credit Hours)

This course will expose the inter-professional student to current and future challenges of aging in our society. Topics will include Healthy People 2020 objectives, health promotion and disease prevention for the aging, sociocultural issues, and theories on behavior and motivation. Common systemic and oral health conditions of the aging adult will be identified. Critical analysis of the current health environment will provide a format for discussion and identification of strategies for health promotion and disease control for the aging. Measures for promoting and maintaining oral health and overall health of the aging population will be explored, with attention to current research from the literature. This course is offered during summer semesters only.

DNTH 650 Advanced International Dental Hygiene (3-9 Credit Hours)

Faculty-led experiences offer unique opportunities for students to travel abroad, develop cross cultural competence, experience global health challenges, and engage in projects that advance oral health worldwide.

Prerequisites: DNTH 514

DNTH 660 Educational Concepts for the Health Professional II (3 Credit Hours)

Explores instructional strategies and their application to contemporary health professional roles. Emphasis is on individuals as health care specialists in business and industry; professional, private and public organizations; higher education; and the health care industry. Topics include implementation and evaluation of instruction, roles and responsibilities of faculty within an accredited program affected by state and national standards, and ethical and career related issues and trends. Students are provided with practical experience in traditional and distance education instructional methods. (offered spring)

Prerequisites: DNTH 514 or permission of the instructor

DNTH 663 Interprofessional Health Promotion (3 Credit Hours)

Course brings together students from various health disciplines to learn each other's roles and collaborate as a team using technology to promote health and prevent disease. Focus will be on optimizing health efforts and outcomes through an interprofessional approach that is guided by the research evidence and current technologies. Topics include Healthy People 2020 objectives, age, specific clinical guidelines for health promotion and illness prevention, theories on behavior and motivation, sociocultural issues, telehealth care, and various health problems. Evidence-based measures used by the team for promoting and maintaining health throughout the lifespan are emphasized. (spring only)

DNTH 668 Internship (3-9 Credit Hours)

Experience-based learning activities designed to develop a role of competence related to the individual's area of specialization while working under the supervision of a faculty member or host supervisor within an educational, health care, research, or corporate health setting. A clinical dental hygiene internship is prerequisite to DNTH 669. Available for pass/fail grade only. (offered fall, spring, summer as available)

Prerequisites: DNTH 514, DNTH 515, DNTH 604 or permission of the instructor

DNTH 669 Clinical Administration & Teaching Practicum (1 Credit Hour)

This practicum course is for students to apply principles and theories of education and management to dental hygiene clinical education. Emphasis is on planning, implementing, and evaluating clinical teaching, assessment of clinical competence, management of human and physical resources, and regulations affecting clinical education. This course is only offered during fall semester.

Corequisites: DNTH 604

DNTH 695 Topics in Dental Hygiene (1-6 Credit Hours)

Advanced seminars on selected topics in dental hygiene. Topics vary by semester. (offered fall, spring, summer)

DNTH 697 Independent Study-Dental Hygiene (1-6 Credit Hours)

Independent reading and study on a topic selected under direction of a faculty member. (offered fall, spring, summer)

Prerequisites: Graduate Program Director permission required

DNTH 698 Research (3 Credit Hours)

An original thesis research project executed with the major advisor and thesis committee supervising the student's research project. A written research proposal must be submitted and approved prior to beginning the project. Required for students in the thesis option. Available as pass/fail grade only. (offered fall, spring, summer).

Prerequisites: DNTH 515; FOUN 722 or HLSC 746 or CHP 640 or equivalent statistics course approved by the graduate program director

DNTH 699 Thesis (3 Credit Hours)

Devoted to research, writing of the thesis, and scheduled conferences with the candidate's advisor and thesis committee. Students must submit an acceptable written thesis demonstrating knowledge of problem selection, data classification, analysis and interpretation and defend it. Available as pass/fail grade only. (offered fall, spring, summer)

Prerequisites: DNTH 698

DNTH 998 Master's Graduate Credit (1 Credit Hour)

This course is a pass/fail course for master's students in their final semester. It may be taken to fulfill the registration requirement necessary for graduation. All master's students are required to be registered for at least one graduate credit hour in the semester of their graduation.