



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

CONTACT:

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DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM



TWO YEARS LEADING TO LICENSURE



[Dental Hygiene Program Overview--link to A-B Tech Website](#)

- Program Goals
- Program Cost Estimate
- Schedule of Classes
- Course Transferability
- Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice
- Employment Statistics
- Accreditation Statement

A photograph of four students sitting around a table in a library, engaged in a study session. A young man in a grey t-shirt is smiling and looking towards a young woman with glasses. Another young woman is looking at a laptop, and a young man is looking at a book. The background shows bookshelves filled with books. The image is overlaid with semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of blue and purple.

Direction
Structure
Stability
Consistency
Support
Equality

The Learning Environment We Provide



The Responsibility You Provide

- Motivation
- Discipline
- Respect
- Professionalism

PROFESSIONALISM

TRAITS

1. Ambitious
2. Cheerful
3. Goal Oriented
4. Polite
5. Respectful
6. Honest
7. Conscientious
8. Presentable
9. Curious
10. Motivated
11. Hospitable
12. High energy
13. Infectiously enthusiastic

DEFINITION

“Professional competence is the habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, values, and reflection in daily practice for the benefit of the individual and community being served.”

(Epstein and Humbert)



Department Policies

Found in Dental Hygiene Handbook available first day of class

- **Policies and Procedures** address expectations around program completion:
 - Retention – grade of 'C' or higher to progress from one semester to another
 - Separation – include but not limited to
 - Failure to receive passing grade, dishonesty, noncompliance with policies and procedures, mental and/or physical abuse, failure to attend class/lab/clinic as directed, failure to adhere to HIPAA regulations
- Read the **Program Policies** section.
- Sign the **Policy and Procedure** Compliance document contained in the handbook.

IN THE EVENT OF DISMISSAL



Students are not guaranteed a place in the next class



Dismissal due to lack of professionalism precludes re-admittance



Refer to program handbook for details

Pre-Application Information



- **Pre-Application Requirements:**
 - Bio 163 or approved substitute
 - CHM 130 and 130A or approved substitute
- **Pre-Application Recommendations:**
 - All General Education courses
- All DEN, CHM, and BIO courses must be passed with a grade of “C” or better to remain in the program
- All science courses **MUST** have been completed within 5 years
- Any transferable DEN course must have been completed within 5 years



Online Readiness Requirements

- Must be prepared to participate in 100% online courses
- Processes are in place to verify that the identity of the student who registers for the course is the one who participates in, completes, and receives academic credit for the course

All DEN courses have online components

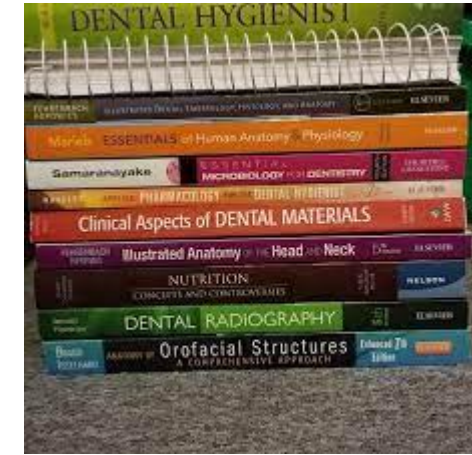
- Computer access
- Mozilla Firefox Browser
- Reliable Internet Access
- Microsoft Word/PowerPoint
- Check A-B Tech email daily
- Smartphones not compatible
- College level grammar/spelling
- Writing Center services available

STUDENT ID

- Obtain prior to the first day of class
- [Online link to get Student ID card](#)



Bookstore – bailey building



TEXTBOOKS

- The department has worked with the publishers to provide book bundles at a significant cost savings; therefore, books should be purchased from A-B Tech bookstore.
- Most textbooks also come with online resources that are included with the textbook bundles. These online resources are required for completion of some assignments.
- There are also some textbooks that have been created by the department and only sold through the A-B Tech Bookstore.

Attendance/Tardy Policy

Zero tolerance for absenteeism / tardiness

- Contact instructor if / when a situation arises that prevents your participation (this will allow for consideration of circumstances)
- You may / may not be permitted to take a quiz or be allowed to make it up
- Must be present to maximize learning
- There is seldom an opportunity to make up missed class, lab or clinic time
- Patients expect healthcare providers to be present and this provides you with an opportunity to hone skills around punctuality etc.



Dress Code

No jeans in poor condition (holes, cut off)

No short shorts

No tank tops, or skimpy tops that reveal cleavage or midriff

No exposure of body piercing, tattoos, thongs, bra straps

No tight clothing that reveals anatomy

More...see program hand book

Faculty will alert and warn student of breach in dress code. After that, any further violations of dress code or professionalism will affect grade, may involve administration, and/or continuance in program

Dress Code

Purpose

Good grooming habits and personal hygiene must be a constant practice in a professional atmosphere.

Each dental assistant or dental hygienist represents the entire profession. The patient whom she/he serves is very apt to judge all other dental professionals by her/his appearance, health and attitude toward her/his profession. No line of endeavor demands as much cleanliness of the body and personal hygiene as does dental hygiene and dental assisting. This is not only because we work so close to patients, but also because we are teachers of health and appearance.

The reason for the existence of any regulation on attire is that patients judge students by their behavior and appearance. Whether or not they should judge student's competence by their behavior and appearance in or out of the clinic is immaterial, because studies prove that this is the basis of their judgment. Patients should feel comfortable with the health care provider, not put off by initial appearance. Therefore, we choose to present a fairly traditional appearance rather than cutting-edge or unusual style.

The purpose of the allied dental student dress code is to provide students with guidelines for appropriate dress in their school and professional environment. Student roles vary depending on scheduled activities (i.e. clinic, laboratory, and classroom). Therefore, separate guidelines for each setting are required. The purpose of these guidelines is to set standards which will be uniformly interpreted by students and faculty and which lend themselves to professionalism.

In all situations, each student should exhibit and be a model of optimum oral and personal hygiene.

- (a) Thorough oral and personal hygiene must be practiced every day, *and*
- (b) Use of dependable deodorants is essential.

- *Classroom Appearance*

1. Halter tops, exposed midriffs and short shorts are not appropriate classroom attire.
2. Shoes and appropriate undergarments must be worn. Undergarments should not show beyond clothes.

Laboratory/ Clinical Appearance

1. Uniforms
 - a. Students must wear selected clinic uniforms during all lab/clinic sessions.
 - b. All uniforms should be clean and neat (wrinkle free).
2. Shoes: Students must wear selected clinic shoes during all lab/clinic sessions
3. A white or black, long-sleeved turtleneck or shirt may be worn under clinic uniforms during clinic sessions. No other colors are permitted.
4. Each class will have a designated color lab jacket to wear in clinical settings. First name and last initial must be embroidered on all lab jackets.
5. Hair must be kept clean and neat at all times. If hair is between collar and shoulder length, it must be styled off the face or pulled back. If hair is longer than shoulder length, it must be worn up or braided down the back so that hair does not fall forward over the shoulder. Bangs or waves across the forehead must not fall below the eyebrows. Hair must be styled in a neat manner so that it will not fall in the operator's face or the patient's face, or block the unit light. **All hair coloring, styling and embellishments must be kept neutral.**

1. Fingernails are to be trimmed short enough to be flush with the top of the finger pad. Clear fingernail polish is acceptable if not chipped. No acrylic nails are allowed. Cuticle should be kept healthy and intact.
 2. The only jewelry/pierced items which may be worn are a wristwatch; a pair of small, plain earrings for students with pierced ears; and/or a necklace with a small chain which may have a single, small charm or wedding/engagement ring and is worn under the lab coat/ cover-up. Only one pair of earrings (no larger than a dime and of a material that could be disinfected) may be worn at a time, one in each ear lobe. No other visible jewelry and no visible pierced jewelry retainers may be worn. We STRONGLY discourage tongue piercing due to high incidence of potential oral health problems (infection, chipped teeth).
 3. Students with gages: may be no larger than a dime and of a material that could be disinfected, and only neutral colored gages may be worn.
 4. Glasses with side shields must be worn to protect the eyes. Side shields will be provided. If you wear contact lenses or you do not already wear glasses, you will need to purchase a pair of glasses with plain lenses and solid side panels.
 5. Perfume and other scented preparations should not be used since they may be offensive to some people.
 6. All make-up is to be unobtrusive and natural.
 7. Gum cannot be chewed during lab/clinic.
 8. No caps are to be worn, baseball style or otherwise.
- Tattoos that show outside the uniform/lab coat must be covered

Personal Hygiene

Daily showers with deodorizing soap

Exfoliation of skin surfaces with a washcloth

Daily washing of the hair and scalp

Application of underarm deodorant

Clean underwear and clean, wrinkle-free clothing

Meticulous oral hygiene

Hair that is groomed and a Natural Color (headbands and accessories must be black or brown)

Only natural looking make-up (no false eyelashes, etc...)

No heavy perfume, or odors from tobacco or alcohol

Clean socks and shoes



CastleBranch Online Medical Compliance Tracking



- Required Immunizations
 - See program specifics
- Required CPR
- NCCCS Medical Form
- Medical Consult for Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Students Form
- Dental Examination Form

CPR



- All dental hygiene students are required to have certification in Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider.
- All students will be required to take the course offered through A-B Tech's Allied Dental Programs even if CPR certification is still current.

Occupational Hazards Risks



- Allied Dental students who enter the Dental Hygiene/Dental Assisting Program have the potential of being exposed to the following occupational hazards/risks: Bloodborne pathogens, ionizing radiation, various hazardous chemicals and musculoskeletal disorders. All Allied Dental Students will be expected to adhere to all institutional Bloodborne Pathogen and safety policies.



Learning coordination skills is tedious and difficult.

Expect to get frustrated.

Accept responsibility.



PSYCHOMOTOR SKILLS

No Guests Please



- For insurance / liability purposes, students may not bring guests into class or clinic
- Dental program insurance only covers:
 - Employees
 - Registered students
 - Patients
- Dental program insurance does not cover:
 - Children
 - Parents
 - Spouse
 - Friends
 - Pets



Dental Hygiene Program Technical Standards

Purpose Statement

- All students in the Dental Hygiene Program are expected to meet certain technical standards which are essential for successful completion of all phases of the program, and which reflect industry requirements and standards. To verify the student's ability to perform these essential functions, students may be required to demonstrate the technical standards below.
- Meeting these technical standards does not guarantee employment in this field upon graduation. Ability to meet the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for any licensure, certification exam, or successful completion of the program.



Dental Hygiene Technical Standards (Cont.)

Technical Standard	Definition of Standards	Examples
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills	Ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify cause and effect relationship in clinical situations. Develop dental hygiene care plan. Assimilate knowledge from lecture, laboratory and clinical arenas. Utilize basic mathematical skills.
Interpersonal Skills	Abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish rapport with clients, families and colleagues. Respect and care for clients whose appearance, condition, beliefs, and values may conflict with your own.
Communication Skills	Abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document and interpret actions and client responses in a clear, professional, and timely manner. Give verbal directions or follow verbal directions from other members of the dental team. Explain treatment procedures and oral health instruction as well as document treatment procedures and client responses.
Coping Skills	Ability to maintain a state of harmony.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solves personal and interpersonal problems. Minimizes stress and conflict. Balances internal needs and external demands.
Mobility/Motor Skills	Physical abilities sufficient to move in one's environment with ease and without restriction. Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move around clinical operatories, dark room, sterilization room, and other treatment areas. Position chairside in close proximity to patient. Administer CPR and BLS procedures. Reach radiographic equipment which is approximately 5-6' off floor. Transfer patients from wheel chairs to dental chairs and back. Move, calibrate, and use equipment, dental materials and supplies including sharp instruments during operative procedures. Use ancillary aids chairside – mannequins, small equipment, etc. Hand / eye coordination.

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Auditory Skills	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hears patients, cries of distress, sound of instruments being properly utilized, sound of slow/high speed hand piece, and monitor vital signs.
Visual Skills	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in dental procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observes client responses such as skin color and facial expression. Monitors vital signs. Notes gingival description and pocket depths (read probe) – healthy vs disease state including color changes. Evaluates radiographs for technical quality including density, contrast and distortion. Reads records. Note color changes in dental materials which indicates reactions occurring.
Tactile Skills	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performs palpation techniques (EO/IO exam), functions of a dental hygiene exam and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, e.g. scaling, root planning and deposit assessment.
Environmental	Possess the ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely work with potentially harmful chemicals used in dental settings. Practice Standard Precautions in the dental setting. Work in areas that are close, crowded, and/or noisy. Anticipate exposure to communicable diseases, body fluids, and toxic substances.
Emotional/Behavioral	Possess emotional stability sufficient to maintain composure in stressful situations and assume responsibility / accountability for actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt rapidly to changing environment and/or stress. Calmly receive feedback. Demonstrate honesty and integrity beyond reproach.

In the case of an otherwise qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential training elements, cause undue hardship, or produce a direct threat to the safety of the patient or student.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College is invested in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Support Services is part of Student Services and is located in the K. Ray Bailey Student Services Center. For detailed information or to request accommodations visit [A-B Tech Support Services](#). An appointment is recommended prior to enrollment in order to discuss any special concerns.



Course Sequencing

The sequence of courses in the catalog and on your education plan should be followed exactly.

Program Chair will complete your ed plan for the dental hygiene program upon acceptance into the program

If you have not taken the appropriate courses as indicated in your ed plan, you will not be able to take the certification exams.

Only the program Chair can certify your “readiness” to take the National and Regional Certification Exams

ADA requires expertise of the Program Administrators to determine who is qualified





Boards/License/Certification: [Click here for link to State Boards of Dentistry](#)

- National Exam: 95-100% A-B Tech pass rate
- Clinical/Regional Exam: (CITA, CDCA)—100% A-B Tech pass rate
- State Licensure: Jurisprudence and Infection Control exam; 100% A-B Tech graduates obtain license



American Association of Dental Boards

Background Checks

- Background checks may be performed by state dental boards and may prevent employment if found to have a felony conviction on record
- DEA rule that employer cannot hire employee convicted of drug-related offenses



A-B Tech Dental Hygiene Program is fully accredited by:



Commission on Dental Accreditation

Last report 2019
Next report 2026



**allied health
education**

