

About This Program

Students in the Dental Hygiene program gain the skills and knowledge to provide comprehensive dental hygiene care. Instruction helps students develop professional communication skills with patients, colleagues and the public, as well as knowledge of ethical standards and professional behavior. Graduates of the program are prepared to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE), as well as state or regional clinical licensing examinations¹. Licensure qualifications may vary by state and are available from the campus program director or published in the clinical manual.

Careers in Dental Hygiene²

Dental hygienists are licensed health specialists who provide patients with preventative, educational and therapeutic services, promoting oral health and control of oral disease. They observe and record abnormalities, take oral X-rays and apply fluoride and fissure sealants. Other tasks include providing periodontal therapies like root planing and removal of plaque, calculus, and stains from teeth. Utilizing the Dental Hygiene (DH) process of care, students will learn to devise and deliver patients with personalized oral care.

Dental hygienists' career path can lead to employment in a variety of health care environments such as:³

- Dental offices
- Physician's offices
- Government

Prerequisite Coursework


California applicants to the Dental Hygiene degree program must have completed the following prerequisite courses at an accredited college or university, with a minimum grade of C and an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher. Science courses must have been completed within the previous five years. Science courses with wet lab awarded transfer credit for the Carrington Dental Assisting degree program must have been completed within the previous seven years.

- Oral Communication
- Written Communication
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Anatomy with wet lab
- Physiology with wet lab
- Inorganic Chemistry with wet lab
- Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry with wet lab
- Microbiology with wet lab
- Nutrition

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Dental Hygiene program, graduates will be able to:

- Deliver comprehensive dental hygiene care to a diverse population of patients according to the Dental Hygiene process of care.
- Practice in a safe and ethical manner in accordance with the Dental Hygiene Standard of Care, infection control standards, state and national governance, and the Core Values of the ADHA Code of Ethics.
- Justify the use of evidence-based treatment modalities in relation to the delivery of oral health care.



The program culminates in an Associate of Science degree.

¹ Carrington College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual majors. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program. Credential preparation varies by location.

² Individuals seeking to enter this career field may be subject to screenings such as, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug/alcohol testing prior to externship, to attain occupational licensure/certification or employment, and throughout their careers.

³ Source: bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm#tab-3

DENTAL HYGIENE



Campus Based: Sacramento and San Jose

Dental Hygiene Campus-Based Degree Requirements

TECHNICAL COURSES		LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	CLINICAL HOURS	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
DH10	Introduction to Clinical Dental Hygiene	30	0	0	2
DH100.1	Introduction to Clinical Dental Hygiene Lab	0	120	0	2
DH11	Oral Radiology	30	0	0	2
DH110	Oral Radiology Lab	0	30	0	1
DH12	Oral Biology	30	0	0	2
DH13	Head and Neck Anatomy	30	30	0	3
DH14.1	Dental Morphology	30	0	0	2
DH15	Preventive Dentistry	30	0	0	2
DH20.1	Clinical Dental Hygiene Seminar	30	0	0	2
DH200	Clinical Dental Hygiene Care	0	0	120	2
DH21.1	Local Anesthesia	30	0	45	3
DH22	General and Oral Pathology	45	0	0	3
DH23	Periodontics	45	0	0	3
DH24	Dental Hygiene Care for Patients with Special Needs	30	0	0	2
DH25	Behavioral Foundations of Dental Hygiene Care	15	0	0	1
DH30	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Seminar	30	0	0	2
DH300	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care	0	0	240	4
DH31	Dental Materials	15	0	0	1
DH310	Dental Materials Lab	0	30	0	1
DH32	Pharmacology	45	0	0	3
DH33	Community Oral Health	30	0	0	2
DH34	Dental Specialties	30	0	0	2
DH40	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Seminar	30	0	0	2
DH400	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care	0	0	300	5
DH41.1	Community Oral Health Practicum	15	36	0	2
DH42	Scientific Methods	15	0	0	1
DH43	Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Dental Hygiene Practice	45	0	0	3
DH44	Dental Hygiene Review	30	0	0	2
TOTAL FOR DEGREE		660	246	705	62

Approximate time to complete degree program: 64 weeks (not including breaks)

Technical Coursework

Carrington College’s Dental Hygiene program helps students develop the skills to give comprehensive dental hygiene care along with professional communication skills and a knowledge of ethical standards and behavior. They learn to analyze and apply advances in research to dental hygiene care and are encouraged to participate in and provide leadership in community activities that promote optimal oral health.

Students may also need to meet additional requirements, including drug screening and background checks, prior to starting the program or prior to entering direct patient care.

Carrington’s academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission and graduation requirements.

Accreditation and Disclosures

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, 428 J Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

For comprehensive information on Carrington’s accreditation and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation. Visit carrington.edu/sci for important information on program outcomes. Program availability varies by location. Carrington College reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. For the most updated information, visit carrington.edu.