



Dental Hygiene

Department: Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- The program has consistently received the **highest level of accreditation** given by The Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Students get their **clinical experience** at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, public health settings, and other outreach locations.
- The program has a **state-of-the-art lab** that promotes a great learning environment.
- Students benefit from **small class sizes** and a **mentor program**.
- Students have the opportunity to join the **American Dental Hygienists' Association** at the state and national levels.
- The program features **award-winning, knowledgeable faculty** who are experts in their field and focused on **student success**.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie for more details.

Program Description

Dental hygienists help prevent, detect, and treat diseases of the mouth, playing a key role in the pursuit of optimal patient health via education and treatment planning. Hygienists work independently with patients.

Dental hygienists remove calculus deposits and stains from the teeth, polish teeth, apply sealants and fluoride, take X-rays, record medical and dental histories, and educate patients on how proper brushing, flossing, and eating habits can help maintain a healthy mouth.

This program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

Career Opportunities

Dental offices/clinics/hospitals
Government agencies
Public health
Insurance claims processing
Specialty dental practices
Sales
Teaching

Sample Classes

Human Anatomy and Physiology
Fundamentals of Dentistry
Dental Anatomy
Preventive Dentistry
Dental Hygiene I, II, III, IV, V
Dental Radiography
General and Oral Pathology
Dental Nutrition
Dental Materials

Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist
Therapeutics and Pain Control
Periodontology

Accreditation

Kirkwood's Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of compliance without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Dental Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the regional board examinations of their choice. Successful completion of both board examinations is required to receive a license to practice dental hygiene.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation
401 N Michigan Ave, Suite 3300
Chicago, IL 60611-4250
312-440-4653
<https://coda.ada.org>

Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships.

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