

Dental Hygiene, AAS Degree - 82 credits

Program Area: Health (Fall 2025)

**THE ELECTRONIC PROGRAM APPLICATION MAY BE FOUND ON THE LSC WEBSITE.
APPLICATION DATES TO APPLY ARE DECEMBER 26TH – JANUARY 22TH ANNUALLY.**

Program Description

The dental hygiene program provides academic and clinical educational opportunities for capable individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitude for the professional practice of dental hygiene. The curriculum focuses on basic sciences, as well as essential technical and clinical skills in preparation for providing preventive dental hygiene services to the public. Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals, licensed in dental hygiene, who provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

Due to the nature of the clinical experiences in the dental hygiene program, students will be participating in a work environment that has the potential of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. All students accepted into the dental hygiene program are provided with written policy and instruction on infection control protocol to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Policies and procedures on the dental hygiene program's infection control protocol are available to all applicants upon request. Other work-related disorders associated with the practice of dental hygiene could result from repetitive activities and exposure to high decibel sounds. Advancements in design and technology in the profession are continually evolving to minimize the effects. The program complies with all institutional, local, state, and federal policies.

Program Outcomes

- To prepare graduates with the knowledge and clinical competence required to provide current comprehensive dental hygiene services.
- Interact effectively with patients, peers, and dental health care members utilizing professional, written, and oral communication.
- Develop an identity of self, supportive of continuous learning and professional endeavor.
- Exhibit ethical behavior consistent with professional conduct.
- Initiate and assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention activities.
- Acquire and synthesize information in a critical, scientific, and effective manner.

Pre-Program Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
BIOL 1140	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	
BIOL 1141	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	
BIOL 1170	Microbiology	3	
CHEM 1110	Aspects of Chemistry I	3	
ENGL 1106	College Composition I (or)	3	
ENGL 1109	College Composition II		
PSYC 1135	Lifespan Developmental Psychology (or)	3	
PSYC 1120	General Psychology		

Required Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
DENH 1401	Dental Anatomy	2	
DENH 1405	Developmental Head & Neck Anatomy	2	
DENH 1420	Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice I	5	
DENH 1425	Dental Hygiene Practice I SimLab	1	
DENH 1470	Medical and Dental Emergencies	1	
DENH 2550	Community Dental Health	2	
COMM 1100 or COMM 1105 or COMM 1110	Intro to Communication or Interpersonal Communication or Public Speaking	3	
DENH 1505	General and Oral Pathology	2	
DENH 1511	Dental Materials	4	
DENH 1520	Dental Hygiene Theory II	2	
DENH 1528	Dental Hygiene Practice II	4	
DENH 1530	Dental Radiology	3	
DENH 1560	Periodontology I	1	
DENH 2401	Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2	
DENH 2420	Dental Hygiene Theory III	2	
DENH 2428	Dental Hygiene Practice III	6	
DENH 2431	Radiographic Interpretation	2	
DENH 2460	Periodontology II	2	
DENH 2501	Pain Management	2	
DENH 2520	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	2	
DENH 2528	Dental Hygiene Practice IV	6	
HPER 1302	Nutrition	3	
SOC 1111	Introduction to Sociology	3	

Total Credits

82

Courses may require a prerequisite. Refer to the course outline or check with an advisor.

Qualified applicants should be aware that program class sizes are limited, which may delay acceptance into the program.

General Education courses that are required may be taken prior to entering the program, as long as the specific prerequisites for that course have been met. Please check with your advisor. All courses in the program need to be completed with a grade of "C" or better to progress into the next semester.

Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program is competitive, based on pre-program course GPA.

Prior to application to the program, all pre-program courses listed above must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. The minimum cumulative GPA of pre-program courses must be 3.0 or better.

Pre-program Requirements

Successful entry into this program requires a specific level of skill in the areas of English, mathematics, and reading. Program entry will depend, in part, on meeting the prerequisites listed below.

English/Reading:

- Eligible for ENGL 1106 College Composition I, or
- Completion of ENGL/READ 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). ENGL/READ 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework.

Mathematics:

- Eligible for MATH 0970 Intermediate Algebra, or,
- Completion of MATH 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). MATH 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework.

There are other ways to qualify. Visit [Course Placement](https://lsc.edu/course-placement) (lsc.edu/course-placement) to find out more.

NOTE: You will need a recent physical examination including current immunizations and a current negative Tuberculosis (TB) screening. Current certification in American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider or American Red Cross: BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers is required upon acceptance. ALTH1430 will satisfy this requirement. Background Study approval is required from the State of Minnesota. Students must complete 20 hours of a job shadowing experience prior to taking any DENH courses.

Program Accreditation

The dental hygiene program at Lake Superior College is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 440-4653.

Program Articulation: For additional information on the most current [LSC program articulations list](#).

For more information about the Dental Hygiene Program AAS degree, including course descriptions, course prerequisites, and potential career opportunities, see the [program website](https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/dental-hygiene-aas/) (https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/dental-hygiene-aas/); or contact the [professional advising team](mailto:advising@lsc.edu) (advising@lsc.edu) or 218-733-7601; or the Director of Dental Hygiene, [Kjersta Watt](mailto:kjersta.watt@lsc.edu) (kjersta.watt@lsc.edu), at 218-733-5988.



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