The student must fulfill the following requirements:

Admission Requirements

- Graduation from an accredited entry level dental hygiene program
- Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene or a related field
- Minimum grade point average of 3.0 in upper division and dental hygiene coursework
- Current dental hygiene licensure in good standing
- The student must apply to, and meet all criteria for, admission to the graduate. Send results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogy Test (MAT) to the Graduate School.
- Complete the Dental Hygiene Department application form for the Master of Science degree program (available at www.isu.edu/departments/). Submit two recommendation forms provided by the department. One recommendation must be completed by an individual who has personal knowledge of the applicant's clinical skills such as a faculty member from a dental hygiene program, employer, or colleague. The second recommendation must be completed by an individual who has personal knowledge of the applicant's academic and professional qualifications for graduate study such as a faculty member, officer of a professional association, or colleague.
- Submit to the Graduate School official transcripts to provide evidence of:
  - Graduation from an accredited entry level dental hygiene program
  - Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene or a related field
  - Previous education in local anesthesia and nitrous oxide administration is not a requirement for admissions; however, it is preferred. If previous education in these pain control methods was completed, provide evidence of successful completion of classroom and clinical experiences in local anesthesia and nitrous oxide administration. Evidence could include transcripts, course descriptions, expanded functions or continuing education certificates.
  - Minimum grade point average of 3.0 in upper division courses and a 3.0 in dental hygiene coursework.
- Complete a telephone or personal interview.

General Requirements

A total of 37 credits, including a thesis (minimum of 6 credits), will be required for degree completion. Requirements include 7 courses (23 credits) in the core curriculum, 4 courses (a minimum of 11 credits) in an area of emphasis, and 3 credits of electives.

The core courses advance the theory and practice of dental hygiene and prepare students in research methodology to apply during the thesis process. A thesis is required because the Master of Science degree in Dental Hygiene is the terminal degree in the discipline and a research foundation is imperative to advance the theoretical knowledge base of the profession. In addition to the core curriculum, graduates complete an area of emphasis in dental hygiene education or rural and community health. Two required dental hygiene courses in the emphasis area, coupled with a practicum experience and a related elective course, provide a strong basis for advanced study and thesis work. To enhance the breadth of knowledge, students are required to complete a minimum of 3 credits of electives selected from related graduate coursework offered outside the Department of Dental Hygiene.

The program is an online graduate curriculum with on-campus visitations required for orientation, DENT 6619 Graduate Seminar II and oral examination for thesis defense. A maximum of 9 credits may be transferred officially to Idaho State University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENT 5596</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6605</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6612</td>
<td>Administration and Management of Healthcare Organizations (Or)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA 5599</td>
<td>Experimental Course (Business of Health Care)</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6615</td>
<td>Progressive Dental Hygiene Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6618</td>
<td>Leadership Strategies to Improve Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select one of the following emphases: 11-13

### Dental Hygiene Education Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6620</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Theory and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6621</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Clinical Instruction and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6625</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Education Practicum</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective course in emphasis area (Program Director approval required)

#### Rural and Community Health Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6610</td>
<td>Special Care Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6632</td>
<td>Community and Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6635</td>
<td>Rural and Community Health Practicum</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective course requirements (Program Director approval required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6619</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6646</td>
<td>Health Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENT 6650</td>
<td>Thesis (minimum credits)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduation Requirements

1. Once admitted, students must complete a plan of graduate study with their dental hygiene graduate advisor no later than the end of the first semester after enrollment. This plan must be approved by the Program Director.

2. Any student who, after admission to the Master of Science program, falls below a 3.0 GPA, or who receives a grade of C+ or below in two graduate courses during his or her program of study will be deemed to be performing at an unsatisfactory level and will be dismissed.

3. Any student who, after admission to the Master of Science program, receives a C, C-, D, F, or grade in any graduate course in his or her program of study will be dismissed. Courses with grades of C or lower may not be used to satisfy graduation requirements.

4. Current CPR, related screenings and/or immunizations are required prior to attending the on-campus orientation.

### Academic Requirements

1. Critical analysis of the dental hygiene process of care related to advanced preventive and therapeutic interventions to various population groups, technology and outcomes.

2. **DENT 6616** Progress Dent Hygiene Pract: 1 semester hour.
   - This clinical course provides students with experiential learning opportunities to enhance self-assessment and peer/student evaluation in clinical dental hygiene.
   - Formative assessment techniques are applied to the process of dental hygiene care: assessment, diagnosis, care planning, implementation and evaluation.
   - The course will culminate in an individualized professional development plan constructed by each student based upon faculty, self and peer assessments as well as career goals. May be repeated for up to 2 credits. Graded S/U. PREREQ: DENT 6615 or permission of instructor.

3. **DENT 6618** Leadership Strategies to Improve Health Care: 3 semester hours.
   - Application of leadership theory and models to professional issues, policy development, advocacy, coalition building, strategic planning, communication, conflict resolution and professional advancement.

4. **DENT 6619** Graduate Seminar II: 1 semester hour.
   - This course provides students with experiential learning in dental hygiene practice, research, education, and innovations in technology. The course will culminate in an updated portfolio that addresses career goals within and beyond graduate education. PREREQ: DENT 6615 or permission of instructor. Graded S/U.

5. **DENT 6620** Advanced Educational Theory and Methods: 3 semester hours.
   - Study of theory, principles, and research related to the faculty role in active teaching and learning, development of ethical reasoning, critical thinking and reflective judgment, development of curricular frameworks, outcomes and competencies, and course delivery methods. PREREQ: DENT 6605 or departmental approval.

6. **DENT 6621** Dental Hygiene Clinical Instruction and Administration: 3 semester hours.
   - Theory and practices of clinical instruction and supervision, related to psychomotor skill development, competency-based evaluation, student mentoring and remediation. Examination of organizational and administrative philosophy and practice in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation based on accreditation standards. PREREQ: DENT 6620 or departmental approval.
DENT 6625 Dental Hygiene Education Practicum: 2-4 semester hours.
Individualized experience to apply principles and theories in dental hygiene education. Approval required for practicum sites. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Graded S/U. PREREQ: DENT 6616 and DENT 6620 or departmental approval.

DENT 6632 Community and Global Health: 3 semester hours.
A study of population groups that are at increased risk of poor health and a familiarity with policies and programs designed to reduce health inequalities. Emphasis on the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate an oral health program to increase access to care in an underserved target population.

DENT 6635 Rural and Community Health Practicum: 2-4 semester hours.
Individualized service-learning experience designed to apply theories in rural and community health to improve access to care. Approval required for practicum sites. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Graded S/U. PREREQ: DENT 6610 and DENT 6632 or departmental approval.

DENT 6640 Independent Study in Dental Hygiene: 2-3 semester hours.
Specific problems selected on the basis of interest and preparation. Individualized student effort under the guidance of the instructor. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

DENT 6646 Health Research: 3 semester hours.
Development of foundations in health research and design. The focus will be on effective literature searching with critical analysis and synthesis of evidence-based literature leading to identification of problems for research. PREREQ: Undergraduate Statistics or Biostatistics.

DENT 6650 Thesis: 1-9 semester hours.
Research project under supervision of academic faculty member. Minimum of 6 credits required. May be repeated. Graded S/U. PREREQ: DENT 6646 or permission of program director.

DENT 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are noted by course section and announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.