Admission Requirements

Professional dental hygienists to:

Program goals of this graduate level dental hygiene program are to prepare goals for career opportunities within the health care arena. Therefore, the program is designed for students who are licensed dental hygienists with baccalaureate degrees. Graduates will be prepared for various career opportunities within the health care arena.

Goals

Program goals of this graduate level dental hygiene program are to prepare professional dental hygienists to:

1. Assume leadership roles in academics, rural and community health settings, research, professional associations or commercial industry;
2. Develop advanced clinical abilities that improve oral health and access to dental hygiene care;
3. Acquire research abilities that contribute to the scientific dental hygiene body of knowledge;
4. Assume responsibility for professional development through life-long learning capability; and
5. Provide a foundation for future doctoral education.

Admission Requirements

The student must fulfill the following 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 courses and a 3.0 in dental hygiene coursework
- Current dental hygiene licensure in good standing
- The student must apply to, and meet all criteria for, admission to the Graduate School, and submit a completed application, residency form, fee payment, and transcripts. International students should refer to the "Admission of International Students" section of this Catalog for TOEFL and other requirements. Information is online at www.isu.edu/departments/graduate. (http://www.isu.edu/departments/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/ (http://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
- Minimum grade point average of 3.0 in upper division courses and a 3.0 in dental hygiene coursework.
- 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.
- Send a photocopy of a license to provide evidence of current dental hygiene licensure in good standing.
- Complete a telephone or personal interview.

Applicants can contact the Department at the following address:

Graduate Program Director
Department of Dental Hygiene
Division of Graduate Studies
921 South 8th Avenue, STOP 8048
Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8048
E-mail address: msdh@isu.edu
Telephone: (208) 282-2482

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>
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<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>
</tbody>
</table>
DENT 6618 Leadership Strategies to Improve Health Care 3
DENT 6619 Graduate Seminar II 1
DENT 6646 Health Research 1 3
DENT 6650 Thesis (minimum credits) 6

Emphasis Areas
Select one of the following emphases: 11-13

Dental Hygiene Education Emphasis
DENT 6620 Advanced Educational Theory and Methods 3
DENT 6621 Dental Hygiene Clinical Instruction and Administration 3
DENT 6625 Dental Hygiene Education Practicum 2-4
Elective course in emphasis area (Program Director approval required)

Rural and Community Health Emphasis
DENT 6610 Special Care Populations 3
DENT 6632 Community and Global Health 3
DENT 6635 Rural and Community Health Practicum 2-4
Elective course requirements (Program Director approval required) 3

Total Hours 37

1 Undergraduate statistics or biostatistics must be taken as a prerequisite. A minimum of "C" or better is required.

Academic 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 or 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.

Graduation Requirements
1. Successfully conduct and defend a thesis as outlined in the Department of Dental Hygiene, Division of Graduate Studies, Graduate Student Handbook.
2. Complete the coursework on the study plan approved by the Program Director, Department of Dental Hygiene, Division of Graduate Studies, and by the ISU Graduate School.

Courses
DENT 5596 Graduate Seminar I: 1 semester hour.
This seminar uses web-based activities and on-site campus activities to assist students in developing skills and abilities essential for successful participation in the MSDH program. Graded S/U.
DENT 5598P Professional Development Topics: 1-3 semester hours.
A course for practicing professionals aimed at the development and improvement of skills. May be applied to graduate degrees under special circumstances. May be repeated. Graded S/U.
DENT 5599 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.
DENT 6605 Program Development and Evaluation: 3 semester hours.
An overview of general principles of teaching, learning and evaluation in academic and community oral health programs. Emphasis on assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of programs.
DENT 6610 Special Care Populations: 3 semester hours.
Concepts related to providing oral health care for special care populations. Emphasis on assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care for individuals with transient or lifelong physical, mental, medical or social health needs.
DENT 6612 Administration and Management of Healthcare Organizations: 3 semester hours.
This course combines theoretical knowledge with practical application of principles and techniques for managing a health care environment and employees associated with providing care. Emphasis on organizational structure, human resource management, financial management, quality assurance, policy development, information management, grant writing and business planning.
DENT 6615 Progressive Dental Hygiene Theory: 3 semester hours.
Critical analysis of the dental hygiene process of care related to advanced preventive and therapeutic interventions to various population groups, technology and outcomes.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.