



North Idaho College

DENTAL HYGIENE GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

The dental hygienist is a preventive oral care professional who is licensed to provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic dental hygiene services to the public. Full-time, part-time, evening and weekend work is widely available. Earnings vary by geographic location, employment settings, and years of experience. Dental hygienists have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings including private dental offices, dental clinics, federal, state or local health departments, hospitals, nursing homes, school districts, correctional facilities, private industry, or as educators, researchers, and administrators. The variety of career opportunities and the possibility of flexible hours and schedules make dental hygiene an attractive career choice.

The following links provide more information concerning dental hygiene as a career, general educational preparation, and expected salary for dental hygienists:

[American Dental Hygienists' Association](#)

[American Dental Association](#)

[US Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

North Idaho College offers an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Dental Hygiene degree. A new program cohort will begin in January every other year. Ten applicants will be selected for the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho cohort and five applicants will be selected for the Lewiston, Idaho cohort through a competitive-entry application process scheduled during the preceding summer/fall.

Graduates are eligible to take national, regional, and/or state examinations. Applicants are encouraged to contact the State Board of Dentistry in the states in which they wish to practice for individual licensing requirements.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of initial accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>

North Idaho College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational programs or activities.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM MISSION

North Idaho College will provide increased access to preventive and therapeutic oral health care in the community by providing dental hygiene graduates. These Dental Hygiene professionals will possess the education and preparation to successfully implement preventive and therapeutic services in the community oral health setting, as well as a variety of dental practice settings.

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Due to the demands of the full-time dental hygiene program, student employment is not encouraged while enrolled in the program. The decision to work should be based on individual performance in the classroom, clinical sites, and personal health. Students will not be excused from class or clinical assignments for outside work schedules.

Clinical, lab, and program activities in the NIC clinic and other external sites may be scheduled as early as 7 a.m. or as late as 10 p.m. and may be on any day of the week. Students are required to participate in these activities as scheduled. Childcare arrangements, work schedules, and transportation are the students' responsibility.

Classroom, lab, and service-learning attendance are required. Accountability for knowledge and assignments is the student's responsibility. Failure to complete your assignments or comply with attendance could result in dismissal from the program.

Dental Hygiene skill development takes time and practice. Students must see enough patients for skill development to occur. While students may be provided opportunities to work on a small number of patients through program affiliations with local clinics, it will be each individual student's responsibility to initiate contact, coordinate and schedule appointments with his/her own patients as required for specific skill development and clinical program experience. Finding patients can be time consuming. Expect to spend several hours per week coordinating and scheduling your patients.

PROGRESSION IN THE PROGRAM

To progress in the dental hygiene program, students must: 1) Achieve a minimum grade of B/3.0 or higher in all dental hygiene courses. 2) Undergo and maintain all required background checks/drug screens and certifications.

To be considered for graduation, all students must demonstrate competency in all facets of the dental hygiene curriculum as set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

The following is a guideline for prospective students, so they understand the physical requirements and essential job functions necessary for successful completion of the Dental

Hygiene Program. This list is not all-inclusive, but rather examples of the basic demands of the profession of dental hygiene.

1. Sit, stand and/or bend for extended periods of time in one location with minimal or no breaks.
2. Bend, twist, and lift a minimum of 20 pounds.
3. Demonstrate sufficient visual ability to instrument and provide anesthesia in the oral cavity with or without corrective lenses and while wearing protective eyewear.
4. Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to function in the clinical setting.
5. Demonstrate sufficient ability to communicate with patient, staff, and instructors while wearing dental masks during clinical treatment with or without accommodations.
6. Detect odors sufficient to maintain environmental safety and patient needs.
7. Manipulate small instruments, supplies, and equipment with efficiency, dexterity, and exceptional eye-hand coordination.
8. Tolerate the sight/smell of blood and body fluids.
9. Assist with and/or lift, move, position, and manipulate with or without assistive devices, the client that is non-ambulatory.
10. Function without allergic reaction in an environment with substantial latex and chemical exposure.
11. Possess short and long-term memory sufficient to perform tasks such as, but not limited to patient assessment, clinical procedures, professional judgment, and performing anticipation skills in the clinical environment.
12. Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills under stress.
13. Exhibit positive interpersonal communication skills in patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
14. Make appropriate judgment decisions.

NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ESTIMATED COSTS

North Idaho College Tuition and Fee rates can be found here: [Tuition and Fees](#). In addition to the college tuition and fees, the Dental Hygiene program has additional costs (tools, supplies and additional fees) estimated at approximately \$7,000.00 per year.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The dental hygiene education curriculum is scientifically oriented, rigorous, and intensive. Admissions criteria and procedures are necessary to ensure that the students selected have the potential for successfully completing the program. Please see the program application packet on the [Cardinal Central](#) website or the Dental Hygiene program webpage at: [Dental Hygiene Program](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS

Criminal Background check – Background checks are completed to ensure potential students are eligible for licensure prior to starting school. Some misdemeanor and/or felony charges could prevent individuals from obtaining licensure.

Mandatory Program Orientation – Accepted applicants must attend the mandatory program orientations scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020 on the North Idaho College campus.

Immunizations – Student must comply with all NIC, Clinical Placement Northwest passport and program requirements.

CPR – Students are required to be certified in CPR by the American Heart Association at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level for healthcare providers. The dental hygiene program offers a course early in the fall semester for all incoming first year students, so it is not necessary to complete CPR certification prior to arrival.

Laptop computer – admitted students are required to have a laptop computer for use during the school year. The minimum standards and recommendations include wireless connection enabled, ability to access the NIC learning management system online, and a minimum of four hours battery power. Charging stations are available in some classrooms. A home printer is highly recommended. Microsoft Office programs are used extensively in the program. Students must have Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. (See the Minimum Technical Requirements in the following paragraph.)

Minimum Technical Requirements

You must be able to access/use your student e-mail, Canvas (learning management system), and the Internet using a computer that is on a current version of Windows (8 or 10) or Mac OS (10.13 or later) and has Microsoft Office. Please be aware that Chromebooks, iPads, other tablets and Windows 10 S do not allow you to install third party software or use/enable some add-ins and may not work for all classes. Although each class and program can vary, in general, a Windows 10 PC that allows you to install third party software is recommended.

NOTE: *NIC has various computing spaces and labs available to students with access to high speed internet, Microsoft Office and Windows 10 and Mac OS 10.13 or higher.* Current versions of MS Office are offered for free for NIC Students. Click [HERE](#) for instructions to install Microsoft Office or contact the IT Help Desk for assistance at helpdesk@nic.edu or (208) 769-3280.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the dental hygiene department via:

Email dentalhygiene@nic.edu

Phone: 208-929-4014

Mail: Dental Hygiene Department, 1000 West Garden Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814