

Dental Hygiene

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

About This Program

Students in the Dental Hygiene program gain the skills and knowledge to provide comprehensive dental hygiene care. Instruction helps students develop professional communication skills with patients, colleagues and the public, as well as knowledge of ethical standards and professional behavior. The program culminates in an Associate of Science degree. Graduates of the program are prepared to take the Dental Hygiene National Board and state or regional clinical licensing examinations*. Licensure qualifications may vary by state and are available from the campus program director or published in the clinical manual.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings and completion rate of students who attended this program can be found at carrington.edu/cc/dh.

Program availability varies by location. Carrington College reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. For the most updated information, visit carrington.edu.

*Carrington College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual majors. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program. Credential preparation varies by location.

General Education Coursework

Applicants to the Sacramento and San Jose Dental Hygiene degree program must have completed the following prerequisite courses at an accredited college or university, with a minimum grade of C and an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher. Science courses must have been completed within the previous five years.

Subject Area

- Speech/Oral Communication
- Introduction to Sociology
- English/Writing and Composition
- General Psychology
- College Mathematics
- Organic Chemistry with Lab
- Inorganic Chemistry with Lab
- Microbiology with Lab
- Human Anatomy with Lab
- Human Physiology with Lab
- General Nutrition

Students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene degree program at the Boise and Mesa campuses take general education course offerings focusing on:

- Communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social sciences

Technical Coursework

Carrington College's Dental Hygiene program helps students develop the skills to give comprehensive dental hygiene care along with professional communication skills and a knowledge of ethical standards and behavior. They learn to analyze and apply advances in research to dental hygiene care and are encouraged to participate in and provide leadership in community activities that promote optimal oral health.

Students may also need to meet post-admission and progression requirements, including drug screening and background checks, prior to starting the program or prior to entering direct patient care.

Carrington's academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/carrington-college/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission, post-admission, progression, and graduation requirements.

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Careers in Dental Hygiene

Dental hygienists are licensed health specialists who provide patients with preventative, educational and therapeutic services, promoting oral health and control of oral disease. They observe and record abnormalities, take oral X-rays and apply fluoride and fissure sealants. They also provide periodical therapies such as root planning, as well as plaque, calculus and stain removal. The framework for this type of oral care is known as the Dental Hygiene, or DH, process of care.

Dental hygienists' career path can lead to employment in a variety of health care environments such as:

- Dental offices
- Community dental clinics
- Public health agencies

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Dental Hygiene program, graduates will be able to:

- Deliver comprehensive dental hygiene care to patients in a variety of professional settings via the Dental Hygiene (DH) process of care
- Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking, work collaboratively, communicate clearly and act professionally

Accreditation, Approvals and Program Availability

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, 415 506 0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the US Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

The Dental Hygiene programs at the Boise, Mesa, Sacramento and San Jose campuses are accredited by the Commission on Dental 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 60611-2678. The Commission's web address is: ada.org/en/coda.

For comprehensive information on Carrington's accreditation, licenses and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation.

The Dental Hygiene program is offered to new students at:

BOISE, ID
MESA, AZ

SACRAMENTO, CA
SAN JOSE, CA

* Individuals seeking to enter this career field may be subject to screenings such as, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug/alcohol testing prior to externship, to attain occupational licensure/certification or employment, and throughout their careers.