

# Dental Hygiene

The **Dental Hygiene** major equips students with the knowledge and skills to promote oral health, prevent dental diseases, and provide essential dental care services. Students learn to perform procedures such as teeth cleaning, oral health assessments, and patient education on maintaining good oral hygiene. Graduates typically work in dental offices, community health clinics, public health programs, and educational institutions. This field offers opportunities to work closely with patients, improving their overall health and contributing to their quality of life.

## Job Title Examples:

- Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)
- Clinical Dental Hygienist
- Public Health Dental Hygienist
- Pediatric Dental Hygienist
- Periodontal Dental Hygienist
- Orthodontic Dental Hygienist
- Community Health Dental Hygienist
- Dental Health Educator
- Dental Office Coordinator
- Mobile Dental Hygienist

## Hard and Soft Skills Needed:

### Hard Skills:

1. Clinical dental procedures
2. Radiography (X-ray)
3. Patient assessment and diagnosis
4. Knowledge of dental hygiene software
5. Infection control procedures

### Soft Skills:

1. Communication skills
2. Attention to detail
3. Empathy and patient care
4. Time management
5. Teamwork and collaboration

### **Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:**

A BS in Dental Hygiene qualifies students for entry-level roles as dental hygienists, but additional certifications or training can aid career advancement:

To Enter the Field:

1. State Licensure:
  - Required in all states to practice, typically involves passing written and clinical exams.

To Advance:

1. Local Anesthesia Certification:
  - Allows hygienists to administer local anesthesia in some states.
2. Advanced Degrees or Specializations:
  - For roles in education, research, or administration.

Summary:

State licensure is mandatory for entry, while certifications like local anesthesia and advanced education help with career growth.

### **Professional or Student Associations:**

- Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA)
- American Dental Association