

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

# Dental Hygiene

The Dental Hygiene program prepares students to become licensed oral health care professionals who provide preventative oral health care by assessing patient risk for oral diseases and providing appropriate patient-centered education and treatment. The dental hygienist works independently, under the supervision of a dentist and is an essential member of the dental team. Besides providing clinical dental hygiene services, a dental hygienist may choose from several career paths, such as corporate, public health, researcher, educator, administrator or entrepreneur.

### Why study dental hygiene?

Dental Hygiene is a specialized field requiring knowledge, critical thinking, and competent clinical skills to provide comprehensive patient-centered dental hygiene care. Dental hygienists in a clinical role assess, diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate, and document treatment for prevention, intervention, and control of oral diseases, while practicing in collaboration with other health professionals. The field is above average in industry growth, and the specialized skills give students varied employment options.

### Focused courses for your degree

The dental hygiene program requires 35 credits of pre-requisite courses. These courses must be completed before applying and being accepted into the dental hygiene program. The dental hygiene program includes 64 credits and will take two academic years, plus one summer session, to complete. The program includes lectures, supervised labs, and clinics. Students will also participate in service-learning opportunities. Graduates will earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Dental Hygiene.

### Credential

Dental hygienists must complete an accredited educational program to qualify for licensure in a particular state or region. Dental hygienists are licensed with the credential of Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) or Licensed Dental Hygienist (LDH) following completion of an academic program that includes didactic and clinical requirements. Following graduation and licensure requirements of the North Dakota State Board of Dentistry, the dental hygienist will use the credential Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) serves the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor dental education programs' continuous quality and improvement. Dakota College is seeking initial accreditation by CODA.

### State and national licensure requirements

The licensure process involves several steps:

1. The student must pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE). This exam is usually taken during the last semester of the program and results are accepted in all 50 states.
2. The student must pass a regional clinical examination.
3. The student must pass a state jurisprudence (law) examination.

Upon successful completion of these requirements, the graduate can apply to the North Dakota Board of Dentistry for licensure to practice as a Registered Dental Hygienist in North Dakota. The Board requires initial license applicants to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history check.



## COURSES REQUIRED

### Dental Hygiene (AAS)

#### Prerequisite General Education Courses (35-36 cr)

##### Fall

BIOL 220 Anatomy & Physiology I .....	4 cr
BOTE 108 Business Math or MATH 103 College Algebra or higher.....	3-4 cr
CHEM 115 Introductory Chemistry .....	4 cr
ENGL 110 College Composition I.....	3 cr
PSYC 111 Introduction to Psychology.....	3 cr
UNIV 105 First Year Experience .....	1 cr

##### Spring

BIOL 221 Anatomy & Physiology II.....	4 cr
BIOL 202 Microbiology .....	4 cr
COMM 110 Fund. of Public Speaking .....	3 cr
CSCI 101 Intro. to Computers or CSCI 289 Social Implications of Computer Technology..	3 cr
DENT 116 Dental Anatomy .....	2 cr
Wellness elective .....	1 cr

#### Required Dental Hygiene Courses (64 cr)

##### Fall (first year of DH program)

DENT 117 Intro. to Infection Control, Immunology & Medical Emergencies in the Dental Practice .....	2 cr
DENT 118 Biomaterials .....	3 cr
DENT 119 Dental Radiology .....	3 cr
DHYG 132 Radiology Lab I.....	1 cr (8w2)
DHYG 134 Dental Anatomy Lab .....	1 cr
DHYG 136 Principles I .....	2 cr
DHYG 137 Preclinic I.....	3 cr
DHYG 209 Head and Neck Anatomy .....	1 cr

##### Spring (first year of DH program)

DHYG 113 Oral Histology & Embryology.....	2 cr
DHYG 133 Radiology Lab II.....	1 cr (8w1)
DHYG 138 Principles II .....	3 cr
DHYG 139 Clinic II .....	5 cr
DHYG 141 Periodontology I.....	2 cr
DHYG 205 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist .....	2 cr

##### Summer (first year of DH program)

DHYG 239 General and Oral Pathology.....	2 cr
DHYG 240 Pain Management.....	2 cr
DHYG 242 Principles III.....	1 cr
DHYG 243 Clinic III .....	1 cr

##### Fall (second year of DH program)

NUTR 240 Principles of Nutrition .....	3 cr
DHYG 241 Periodontology II.....	2 cr
DHYG 245 Clinic IV .....	6 cr
DHYG 248 Community Dental Hygiene.....	3 cr
DHYG 249 Clinical Affiliation I.....	1 cr

##### Spring (second year of DH program)

DHYG 244 Principles IV .....	1 cr
DHYG 247 Clinic V .....	6 cr
DENT 121 Dental Ethics & Jurisprudence.....	1 cr
DHYG 250 Clinical Affiliation II .....	1 cr
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology.....	3 cr

#### Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program

A selective admission process is used for acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program, which admits 10 qualified students for a fall start each year. The admission requirements must be fulfilled to be considered.

To enroll in the Dental Hygiene program, students must have a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma, apply for admission to Dakota College and meet program entry requirements.

Upon acceptance, this program requires the following:

- American Heart Association Basic Life Support or BLS for Healthcare Provider American Red Cross CPR certification (must include a hands-on, in-person testing component)
- Immunizations – MMR, Chicken Pox, Tdap, Hepatitis B series, negative two-step TB Skin Test (Mantoux) or QuantiFERON Gold blood test or T spot, annual flu vaccine, Covid-19 vaccine
- Successful statewide and nationwide criminal history check

**Anticipated program start date: Fall 2025.**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

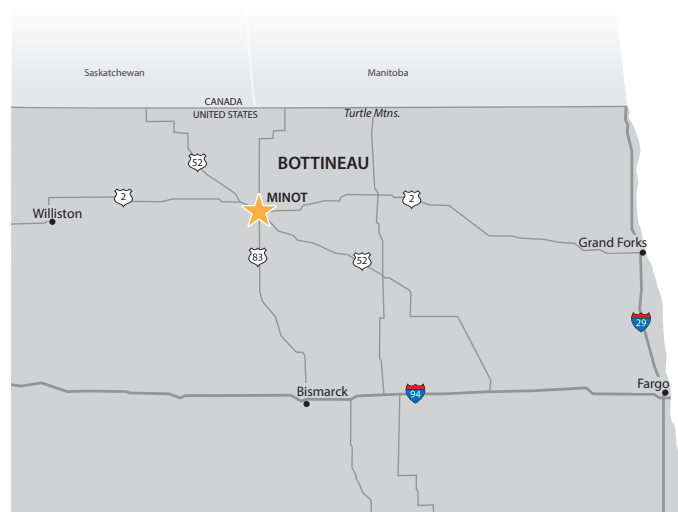
Kris Pladson, CDA, RDH, MS Program Director  
kristie.pladson@dakotacollege.edu  
Ph: 701-371-5729

##### Mailing address:

Dakota College at Bottineau  
105 Simrall Blvd., Bottineau, ND 58318-1198

##### Site location:

Career and Technical Education Center  
120 East Burdick Expressway - Minot



Admission/Student Services: 800-542-6866

**WWW.DAKOTACOLLEGE.EDU**