

***Eastern Washington University Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene  
Online Degree Completion Program***

**Program Description:**

The Eastern Washington University (EWU) Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene online degree completion program broadens the educational experiences of licensed dental hygienists who have graduated from a two-year community college program by providing a liberal arts and broad based general education component, including critical thinking, analysis, writing, researching, and reporting.

Historically this program was offered face-to-face option since 1999 offering dental hygienists with an Associate degree opportunities to pursue an advanced degree at three local community college sites located on the west side of Washington state. As of Fall 2013, this program uses Web 2.0 technology to deliver all content fully online using best practices for online teaching and learning to allow students throughout the state of Washington to pursue their advanced degree online. In Fall 2015, the Dental Hygiene program begins migration to a semester system with the College of Health Science and Public Health. This articulation agreement notes semester credit requirements as well as content to meet the EWU Critical Foundations goals.

To receive a Bachelor of Science degree at EWU, the student must complete at least 180 units of quarter credit that minimally includes a major, the liberal studies requirements, and university requirements as listed below.

- All of EWU Math and English competencies and proficiencies and Critical Foundations for transfer students, including: Cornerstone and Capstone.
- All requirements for a specific academic plan(s).
- At least 60 quarter units (40 semester units) of upper-division courses, that may include transfer work.
- At least 45 quarter units (30 semester units) of coursework taken through EWU of which at least 15 quarter (10 semester) credits from upper-division courses (300 level or above). This requirement is not met by credit-by-exam, retro-credits, transfer coursework, etc.
- A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on all work attempted at EWU.

To fulfill the EWU requirements for the baccalaureate degree, students who wish to complete the EWU BS in Dental Hygiene must complete:

- Required Dental Hygiene courses including Cornerstone and Capstone (40 Semester credits)
- Other degree requirements, if needed after transcript evaluation.

### **Additional Admission Requirements**

Admission requirements over and above admission to EWU are required. These include:

- Associate degree from a dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and regional higher education accrediting bodies in the U.S. or Canada
- Successful completion of the Dental Hygiene National Board examination or its Canadian equivalent
- A current dental hygiene license in the U.S. or Canada
- Successful completion of English 201 or its equivalent
- Successful completion of College Algebra or its equivalent

The intention of this articulation agreement is to create curricular alignment to support students by creating an opportunity to earn the BS in Dental Hygiene with the Department of Dental Hygiene.

Evaluation of courses for transfer credit will not be bound by the terms of this agreement for students who choose to pursue a degree other than the BS in Dental Hygiene through the EWU Dental Hygiene degree completion program. The transferability of courses may be determined on a course-by-course basis if the student does not earn an AAS in Dental Hygiene as indicated in this agreement or does not continue at EWU in the BS in Dental Hygiene through the EWU Dental Hygiene degree completion program.

### **Associate Degree Transfer Block**

EWU accepts a maximum block transfer of 74-quarter credits from an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) dental hygiene degree program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and regional higher education accrediting bodies. Students must fulfill EWU's Critical Foundation and degree requirements as identified by a program advisor. Lower division transfer units may apply toward fulfilling these requirements; however, the student must take all courses in the curriculum in order to meet the 40 upper division semester credit (60 upper division quarter) requirement.

EWU can accept up to 121-quarter credits as non-traditional credit for students entering this program as a licensed Dental Hygienist with an Associate in Applied Science degree from a CODA and regional higher education board accredited program. EWU will transfer 47-quarter credits for the prerequisite courses taken as required by accreditation to receive an AAS in Dental Hygiene. In optimal circumstances, the sum of the maximum block transfer (74 quarter credits) plus the dental hygiene prerequisite courses (47 quarter credits) will total to 121 credits units, leaving a balance of 40 semester units (60 quarter

units) to be completed at EWU, 45 quarter units (30 semester units) of which must be taken through EWU. These include semester credits of upper-division courses to fulfill the six goals of the EWU Critical Foundations. These credits are earned through completion of the following curriculum.

**Degree Completion Program BSDH Major Required**

DNHY 467S Career Strategies (1) *Cornerstone Course*

DNHY 469S Evidence-based Decision Making and Applied Statistics for Health Sciences (4)

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DNHY 471S Principles of Research & Scientific Writing (4) \*\*\*

DNHY 485S Oral Health Promotion (3)

DNHY 486S Contemporary Issues in Dental Hygiene (3)

DNHY 487S Principles and Policies of Oral Healthcare Management (3)

DNHY 488S Relationship, Ethics, and Communication in Healthcare (3) +

DNHY 489S Principles of Dental Public Health (3) +

DNHY 490S Dental Hygiene Capstone (4)

DNHY 491S Foundations of Dental Hygiene Education (5)

DNHY 492S Education/Health Promotion Practicum I (3)

DNHY 494S Mythology, Folklore, and Health (4) \*\*\*\* +

+*CORE courses to fulfill the Foundations Core for the Critical Foundations (10 credits)*

*\*Cornerstone offered both terms; student only takes it once*

*\*\*Quantitative Analysis for CF;\*\*\*UL Writing for CF;\*\*\*\* Humanities*

*Required EWU dental hygiene credits 40 semester credits*

*Minimum semester credits for above major 120 semester units (180-quarter credits)*

*Transferred dental hygiene program credits 74-quarter credits*

*Transferred dental hygiene prerequisites 47 quarter credits*

*Credits in Major (40 semester credits) 60 quarter credits*

**Upper Division Dental Hygiene Coursework – 40 Semester Credits**

Personal goal setting, self-assessment, reflection, teamwork, leadership skills, cultural sensitivity, ethical, and moral values are emphasized in order to prepare students for success in a global environment. Woven throughout these required dental hygiene courses are activities and assignments specifically designed to develop skills in the roles for dental hygienists (educator, administrator/manager, researcher, consumer advocate, public health, and change agent). The following courses are designed to prepare graduates for these roles.

DNHY 467S Career Strategies (1) Cornerstone Course\*

*Prerequisite: Acceptance to the Online BSDH Degree completion program*

Students explore alternate career paths and essential skills needed to create a professional development plan related to a non-clinical dental hygiene practice.

DNHY 469S Applied Statistics and Evidence-based Decision Making for the Health Sciences (4)

*Prerequisite: College Level Algebra or Logic course*

Integration of applied statistics, critical appraisal of research, clinical expertise, and client values are examined to formulate evidence-based decisions in providing effective healthcare.

DNHY 471S Principles of Research & Scientific Writing (4)

*Prerequisite: Acceptance to the Online BSDH Degree completion program*

Basic principles of research and the facilitation of the development of analytical skills for evaluation of professional research culminating in the writing of a scientific research report.

DNHY 485S Oral Health Promotion (3)

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the BSDH Degree completion program.*

This course focuses on current topics related to oral health affecting changes in global populations.

DNHY 486S Contemporary Issues in Dental Hygiene (3)

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the BSDH Degree completion program.*

A seminar on various global roles of the dental hygienist, innovations in technology, best practices, science, and policy related to the dental hygiene process of care.

DNHY 487S Principles and Policies of Oral Healthcare Management (3)

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the BSDH Degree completion program.*

Management and policy creation for healthcare programs and businesses, specifically oral healthcare are discussed in this course.

DNHY 488S Relationship, Ethics, and Communication in Healthcare (3)

*Prerequisite: Acceptance to the Online BSDH Degree completion program*

Overarching themes of cultural diversity and global perspectives are employed in the application of theories and concepts of relationship building, ethics, and communication for the healthcare provider.

DNHY 489S Principles of Dental Public Health (3)

*Prerequisite: Acceptance to the Online BSDH Degree completion program*

This course provides an overview of basic public health concepts including epidemiology, policy, cost, well-being, access, and global health focusing on the relationship of oral public health to general public health.

DNHY 491S Foundations of Dental Hygiene Education (5)

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the BSDH Degree completion program.*

A foundation course providing fundamental theories, teaching strategies, and applications in education and leadership.

DNHY 492S Education/Health Promotion Practicum I (3)

*Prerequisite: DNHY 491*

A practicum experience in didactic, clinical, or laboratory instruction integrating leadership, professionalism, ethics, educational theories, and teaching strategies, with a focus on assessment and evaluation.

DNHY 494S Mythology, Folklore, and Health (4)

*Prerequisite: ENG 201 or DNHY 470 Principles of Research and Scientific Writing*

A course offering historical and diverse perspectives on health based on folklore and mythology.

DNHY 490S Dental Hygiene Capstone (4)

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the BSDH Degree completion program.*

This course incorporates the major learning themes of the dental hygiene degree completion curriculum resulting in a student-generated culminating capstone project/essay.

PLEASE NOTE: Because the EWU Dental Hygiene Degree Completion program was approved by both the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as all appropriate EWU Senate Committees as a stand-alone, cohort driven program, the exact course list above must be taken at EWU. Substitution for any of these courses is not allowed.

**SUMMARY OF ONLINE DENTAL HYGIENE  
DEGREE COMPLETION SEMESTER PROGRAM**

**Admission requirements for BS in Dental Hygiene**

- graduate of CODA and regionally higher education accredited dental hygiene program
- completion of Associate of Applied Science degree (as a minimum)
- current state license to practice dental hygiene
- completion of English 201 or its equivalent
- completion of College Algebra ( EWU Math 104) or equivalent
- minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 for dental hygiene coursework

**Graduation requirements**

**BS Degree Requirements**

<b>181 quarter credits (minimum)*</b>
74 quarter upper division transfer quarter credits for dental hygiene courses at an accredited dental hygiene program resulting in an AAS degree from a CODA and regionally accredited dental hygiene program
60 upper division quarter credits (40 semester credits) in dental hygiene major taken at EWU
47 quarter credits transfer for Dental Hygiene prerequisites in AAS degree
<b>Minimum GPA Required: 2.50</b> cumulative GPA in DNHY courses

**Required coursework for the Degree Program leading to a BS in Dental Hygiene from Eastern Washington University:**

**Critical Foundations requirements:**

In order to avoid more disruption in student learning and degree progress in completing the requirements for this degree the submitter did due diligence in designing this curriculum to meet the proposed Critical Foundations goals as well as current GERCs requirements. This is challenging because students in this program cannot be concurrently enrolled in quarter and semester courses therefore the program must provide the upper division and liberal arts foundational semester credits needed for a baccalaureate degree completion at EWU.

In the past students were required to take a History course and two Humanities courses to fulfill EWU GERCs in Social Science and Humanities. Because all AAS degreed dental hygienists who graduate from an accredited program must have both psychology and sociology, which fulfills the current Social Science GERCs, the need for a History course is

mute. This new curriculum has a 4 semester credit humanities/ literature based course with an overarching theme of cultural diversity and international perspective. Given the importance of well-rounded health care providers and the philosophy of liberal arts in baccalaureate education, this proposed curriculum is designed to offer students experiences in applying liberal arts content to their chosen professional role. In addition, two courses related to quantitative analysis and scientific writing are proposed. Finally, a course on relationship building, ethics, and communication provides content on core competencies of interprofessional collaboration. Cultural Diversity and global perspectives are embedded in all courses in this revised program.

The following outlines how the proposed and current courses fulfill the goals of the proposed Critical Foundations for the transfer student.

**Goal 1 Think Critically:** Critical thinking is related to clinical judgment and is crucial for the dental hygienist as evidenced by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards for Dental Hygiene Education. Students in this program, who are Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH), must have an AAS degree from a program accredited by CODA in order to gain licensure. Standard 2-13 speaks to use of critical thinking in assessment and diagnosis and the Section on Critical Thinking has three standards:

*2-20 Graduates must be competent in the application of self-assessment skills to prepare them for life-long learning.*

*2-21 Graduates must be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature.*

*2-22 Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients.*

To encourage further development of critical thinking every course in this program has assignments to promote critical thinking skills. These include debate and discussion, reflective papers and weekly blogs, and reflective narratives in a cross-curriculum electronic portfolio.

**Goal 2 Communicate Effectively:** Registered Dental Hygienists by degree have an accreditation required communications course. This proposed program embeds communication throughout the curriculum with weekly online discussions and online conferences. Because communications, ethics, and relationship building are core competencies for interprofessional collaboration, according to the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (2011) a proposed new course on building relationships in interprofessional collaboration, communication strategies in health care, and ethics is proposed. Interprofessional education is a major focus in healthcare education due to the demand for interprofessional collaboration in providing affordable and efficient health care.

**Goal 3 Analyze Quantitatively:** This proposed program has two courses where students will apply quantitative analysis to evaluate research in order to provide evidence-based care and or conduct research to add to the body of knowledge of the dental hygiene profession. Applied statistics are included in the new content as well as assessments related to application within the health care environment.

**Goal 4 Engage Creatively:** Students in this program are encouraged in all assignments to use creative and innovative thoughts according to rubric development. Assessments and assignments are designed to introduce these online students to the various forms of media

both online and hard copy. Each student creates an electronic portfolio to display his or her competency in all the roles of the professional dental hygienist.

**Goal 5 Be Well, Do Good:** Being health care providers students in this program have knowledge and experience in helping others as well as the importance of self-care. Content in this program assumes students abide by the ethics and morals of being a dental hygienist. Assessments include creation of a personal development plan to examine and reflect on all the professional roles of the dental hygienist as well as personal growth by developing personal timelines and moral compasses. Introduction to public health concepts and leadership helps students determine how they can effect change in promoting health and providing therapy outside of the traditional role of the clinician.

**Goal 6 Recognize Difference:** Students in this program, who are Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH), must have an AAS degree from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in order to gain licensure. Cultural diversity is a requirement of accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for all dental hygiene programs as noted in the following standard:

2-15 Graduates must be competent in interpersonal and communication skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups and other members of the health care team.

Intent:

*Dental hygienists should be able to effectively communicate with individuals, groups and other health care providers. The ability to communicate verbally and in written form is basic to the safe and effective provision of oral health services for diverse populations. Dental Hygienists should recognize the cultural influences impacting the delivery of health services to individuals and communities (i.e. health status, health services and health beliefs).*

This proposed curriculum is intertwined with content and assessments related to cultural diversity and global perspectives.

This program seeks to educate the next generation of leaders in the profession of dental hygiene. The implementations of professional development plans in the Capstone course as well as the eportfolio are examples of how this program will assess their student learning outcomes.

Assuming English Composition and Quantitative Literacy Proficiency is met prior to enrollment at EWU. If these are not met, the student will meet them by completing the following courses in the major with a 2.5 or better:

- DNHY 469S Evidence-based Decision Making and Applied Statistics for Health Sciences (4)
- DNHY 471S Principles of Research & Scientific Writing (4)