

PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental hygienists focus on preventive care, which includes cleaning teeth, evaluating gums, and providing fluoride treatments to maintain overall dental health. Becoming a dental hygienist can be appealing due to its emphasis on patient care, flexible work hours, and the opportunity to make a significant impact on individuals' health. While the training for dental hygienists is less extensive than for dentists, it equips students with essential skills to promote good oral hygiene practices. Wayne State's program allows students to complete two years of foundational coursework before transferring to a professional dental hygiene school for an additional two years. At the end of the four years, you'll have a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene.

fast facts

Program details: This program is set up so you will spend two years at WSC and two years at a professional dental hygiene school in order to obtain your bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene.

Department: Life Sciences

School: Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Biological systems and structures
- Chemical processes and materials
- Chemical experiment and design
- Modern lab techniques
- Critical thinking and problem-solving

Possible Careers

- Dental hygienist
- Dental supply sales rep
- Health educator
- Dental hygiene instructor
- Dental equipment sales

Types of Employers

- Private dental practices
- Orthodontic clinics
- Community clinics
- University clinics
- Health departments
- Government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Dental supply companies

outside the classroom



Visit www.wsc.edu/clubs to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

Activities / Opportunities

- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

Clubs / Organizations

- Biology Club
- Health Science Club
- Pre-Dental Club

Program courses

2026-27 Academic Year

The following information is provided to guide you in the pre-professional program described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for choosing a major and registering for courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Pre-Dental Hygiene program of study

The courses listed below cover all the prerequisites for dental hygiene school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), though you may attend any dental hygiene school that you wish. In addition to courses for your major, you will complete 30 credit hours of General Studies courses. Additional majors or minors can be added to help meet graduation requirements. Participation in the Pre-Dental Hygiene program at WSC does not guarantee acceptance to a dental hygiene school.

Admission to UNMC's Dental Hygiene program

A minimum of 63 hours of pre-professional coursework and all courses listed below are required for admission to UNMC. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for consideration for admission. UNMC does not require a college math course if you have had two years of high school algebra and one year of high school geometry. Math by advisement if ACT score is below 20.

Required biology courses:

BIO 110 Biology Concepts.....	4
BIO 220 Human Anatomy.....	4
BIO 340 Human Physiology.....	4
BIO 385 Microbiology.....	4

Required other courses:

CHE 106 General Chemistry I.....	4
CHE 107 General Chemistry II.....	4
CNA 100 Principles of Human Communication.....	3
ENG 102 Composition Skills.....	3
ENG 206 Workplace Writing.....	3
FCS 207 Nutrition.....	3
PSY 101 General Psychology.....	3
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology.....	3

Electives:

12-hour series

Students must elect one 12-hour series in one specific area of study – e.g., humanities, social sciences, or English. All courses in the 12-hour series must have the same prefix. Example of a 12-hour series: PSY 101 General Psychology, PSY 230 Life Span Development, PSY 316 Social Psychology, and PSY 345 Health Psychology. A total of 24 hours in biology will also satisfy the requirement.

Arts/Humanities electives

6 credit hours required. Examples of arts and humanities electives: English literature, philosophy, art history, or drawing.

Social science elective

3 credit hours required. Examples of social science electives: sociology, economics, political science, geography.

life sciences faculty



Visit www.wsc.edu/life-sciences-department to learn more about the Department of Life Sciences.

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Revised on: 5/14/26

