

Montgomery County Community College  
DHG 100  
Theory and Practice of Dental Hygiene I  
4-3-6

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A course designed to introduce the dental hygiene student to the profession of dental hygiene, theories and rationales for basic dental hygiene care procedures and prevention of disease, ethical principles, infection control, risk factors for oral disease and treatment planning. Practical application of fundamental concepts and skills are applied in the clinical setting on student partners with emphasis on workplace safety, hazards management, ergonomics, assessment and instrumentation. This course is subject to a course fee.

**PREREQUISITE(S):**

MAT 080 – Fundamentals of Mathematics, or MAT 011 – Beginning Algebra, or MAT 011B - Beginning Algebra with Review of Arithmetic with a minimum grade of “C.” Placement score information can be found on the ACT335 document linked to the online course description.

Official Final High School Transcript or GED Transcript.

High School Chemistry or CHE 121 – General Chemistry – Inorganic (or higher) within 5 years with a minimum grade of “C.”

BIO 131 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I, BIO 132 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II, and BIO 140 – Microbiology and Immunology within 5 years with a minimum grade of “B” in one course, with a minimum grade of “C” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> courses. Must be completed within two attempts.

ENG 101 – English Composition I with a minimum grade of “C.”

ESW 206 – Basic Nutrition with a minimum grade of “C.”

TEAS®. Comprehensive Score of 50 or higher and TEAS®. Reading Comprehensive Score of 75 (or higher) withing 3 years. Must be completed within 2 attempts. See the TEAS® Information Packet. Please note there is a fee for the TEAS®.

**CO-REQUISITE(S):**

DHG 111 - Dental Anatomy

DHG 113 – Dental Histology and Embryology

DHG 155 - Dental Radiology

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Discuss OSHA standards	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Learning Modules Clinical Practice	Case-Based Exams Discussion Board Postings Clinical Competencies Projects
2. Demonstrate basic ergonomic principles for dental hygiene practice	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Clinical Practice	Case-Based exams Clinical competencies Discussion Board Postings Projects
3. Explain the dental hygiene process of care	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Learning modules Clinical Practice	Case-Based exams Clinical Competencies Projects
4. Apply patient information to the dental hygiene process of care	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Clinical practice	Case-Based exams Clinical Competencies Projects
5. Demonstrate the proper use of instruments	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Learning Modules Clinical Practice	Case-Based Exams Clinical Competency Discussion Board Postings Projects
6. Describe basic ethical principles	Lecture Group Discussion Case Application Learning Modules Clinical Practice	Case-Based Exams Clinical Competency Discussion Board Postings Projects

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Director of Educational Effectiveness. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Orientation to the Dental Hygiene  
Profession/Communication/Instruments/Grasp/Fulcrum/Vitals
2. Intro to Dentrux
3. Infection Control/Universal Precautions/Workplace Safety/Ergonomics
4. Intro to Evidence-based Practice, History/Scope of Profession  
Introduction to Ethical Decision Making
5. Medical and Dental Histories/Pharmacologic History
6. Extraoral and Intraoral Exam Assessment/Occlusion
7. Anatomy of the Periodontium/Clinical Characteristics of the Gingiva/Assessment of Gingival and Periodontal Disease and Risk Factors
8. Assessment of the Dentition/Dental Caries/Restorative Charting
9. Intro to Dental Hygiene Diagnosis and Treatment Planning/Chart Documentation
10. Instrumentation and Debridement
11. Motivational Interviewing and Preventive Treatment Plan
12. Mechanical Oral Biofilm Control: Toothbrushing, Auxiliary Aids, Dentifrices, Commercial Mouth Rinses
13. Caries Management: Risk Assessment /Fluoride and Other Therapies

#### LEARNING MATERIALS:

##### Required Texts:

- Boyd, Linda, et al. *Wilkins Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2023.
- Pieren, Jennifer and C. Gadbury-Amyot. *Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) Elsevier, 2025.
- Gehrig, Jill, et al. *Fundamentals of Periodontal Instrumentation and Advanced Root Instrumentation* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2026
- Gehrig, Jill, et al. *Patient Assessment Tutorials: A Step-by-Step Guide for the Dental Hygienist*. (4<sup>th</sup> ed, enhanced). Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2018.
- Langlais, Robert, et al. *Color Atlas of Common Oral Diseases* (Enhanced 5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2020.

##### Required Materials:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year instrument kit (purchased through Specialized Course Materials Form)
- 1<sup>st</sup> year supply kit (purchased through Specialized Course Materials Form)
- Clinic uniform (including scrub pants, scrub top, lab jacket, scrub cap in wine/burgundy; solid black leather shoes)

## Other:

- American Dental Association, *Chairside Instructor*.
- Clinic Handbook 2025-2026, Montgomery County Community College
- Course enhancement through Learning Management System
- Proctor and Gamble Learning Continuing Education Modules provided on [www.dentalcare.com](http://www.dentalcare.com)
- Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

## COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Joan McClintock, RDH, M.Ed.	Date: 4/16/1998
Revised by: Joan McClintock, RDH, M.Ed.	Date: 9/13/2004
Revised by: Janice Farris, RDH, BS	Date: 1/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009
Revised by: Rosemary Herman, RDH, M.Ed.	Date: 1/2010
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 4/27/2010
Revised by: Jenny Sheaffer	Date: 10/16/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 11/1/2012
Revised by: Jenny Sheaffer	Date: 2/28/2014
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 3/3/2014
Revised by: Rosemary Herman RDH, M.Ed.	Date: 11/1/2022
Revised by: Kimberly Beaudencup	Date: 3/23/2023
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Therol Dix, J.D.	Date: 4/25/2023
Revised by: Deborah Gnutti, RDH, MA	Date: 3/20/2024
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date:
Revised by: Deborah Gnutti, RDH, MA	Date: 2/26/2025
VPAA or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 3/20/2025



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved, and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*

