

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

DHYG 31033 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene Theory

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: Admission to the Dental Hygiene program

Corequisites: DHYG 21101 Dental Anatomy and Occlusion, DHYG 23103 Radiology, DHYG 24302 Head and Neck Anatomy, DHYG 31002 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene, and DHYG 34102 Oral Embryology and Histology

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Theoretical instruction of basic dental hygiene procedures. Topics include dental equipment operation/maintenance, infection control/aseptic techniques/safety practices, current principles of the instrumentation, and basic data collection and procedures performed by the dental hygienist. Applies theory at the laboratory/clinical level in DHYG 31002.

B. Additional Information-None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify the professional role of the dental hygienist and other members of the dental health team in terms of responsibilities and functions.
2. Explain the rationale for patient, operator, and assistant positioning consistent with ergonomic principles.
3. Discuss universal precautions for infection control.
4. Describe the importance and process of obtaining vital signs.
5. Identify the patient at risk for medical emergencies.
6. Describe and discuss the principles of instrumentation for examination and scaling procedures.

7. Explain the formation, detection, removal and significance of dental plaque and calculus.
8. Assess the need for plaque and stain removal.
9. Discuss plaque control using appropriate oral physiotherapy methods and materials
10. Discuss the selection of appropriate polishing agents.
11. Describe the theory of selective polishing.
12. Discuss standards of care as they pertain to the patient's/clinician's rights and responsibilities regarding blood borne and infectious diseases.
13. Explain the following dental indices and how they can be utilized during patient treatment: plaque chart and bleeding index.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will research a topic relevant to Pre-Clinical Theory utilizing library resources and online databases and will compose a paper discussing their findings.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will present current research information on an assigned medical emergency common to the dental setting to their peers.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will follow the established program policies and procedures as documented in the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, College of Health Sciences, Dental Hygiene Clinical Policy and Procedures Manual.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Infection Control/Asepsis
- B. Medical History/Dental History (MXDX)
- C. Vital Signs
- D. Intra-oral and Extra-oral Examinations
- E. Dental Terminology/Hard Tissue and Periodontal Charting
- F. Gingiva and Periodontal Tissue
- G. Dental Deposits
- H. Caries
- I. Biofilm Control/Patient Education
- J. Oral Habits
- K. Instrumentation: Scalers, Universal and Area Specific Curets
- L. Medical Emergencies
- M. Coronal Polishing
- N. Fluoride

- O. Introduction to the Profession
- P. Ethics