

Dental Hygiene (DNLT)1054 Clinical Practice IV (1)  
[formerly Dental Hygiene 54ABC; Dental Hygiene 54]

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program and successful completion of Dental Hygiene 2243 with a grade of “C” or higher

Prerequisite knowledge /skills: Before entering the course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the theory of disease transmission and the necessity for asepsis in dentistry,
2. Explain the purpose of a complete dental record and its component parts,
3. Demonstrate communication skills that help ensure a thorough health history,
4. Practice universal precautions on all patients,
5. Use proper techniques for obtaining patients’ vital signs,
6. Describe and use extraoral and intraoral inspection techniques including:
  - a. The names of all structures to be visually inspected and palpated,
  - b. Normal landmarks associated with these structures,
  - c. The prescribed method of palpation for each structure, and
  - d. Common abnormalities that may be detected,
7. Use selection criteria to recommend radiographic surveys for new and returning patients,
8. Identify and record, from radiographs, restorations, suspicious areas, periodontal findings, periapical disease and bony abnormalities,
9. Complete comprehensive dental chartings,
10. Describe the nature and formation of dental plaque and its importance in the etiology of periodontal disease,
11. Locate and identify various amounts of calculus,
12. Integrate the periodontal examination into the assessment, planning and evaluation phases of dental hygiene therapy
13. Integrate plaque and gingival inflammation indices in daily clinical practice for the assessment, planning and evaluation of dental hygiene therapy,
14. Describe and use Angle’s classification system to determine molar relationships,
15. Define the terms “overbite” and “overjet” and demonstrate how to measure each,
16. Design treatment plans to meet the specific needs of each patient,
17. Provide patient care that balances professional treatment and patient self-care,
18. Select and educate patients about oral hygiene procedures, products and devices that specifically meet their individual needs for plaque control,
19. Administer a professional topical fluoride treatment,
20. Determine which type of hand instrument and which instrument design is most appropriate to be used, based on type and location of oral deposits,
21. Be able to provide efficient and effective debridement with the following instruments:
  - a. Sickle scalers,
  - b. Universal curets,
  - c. Area-specific curets,
  - d. Periodontal files, and

- e. Ultrasonic scalers,
- 22. Adapt the correct working and cutting edge of any hand scaling instrument in all appropriate Areas of the mouth,
- 23. Integrate instrument sharpening into daily clinical practice,
- 24. Maintain the design features of instruments during the instrument sharpening procedure,
- 25. Identify and recommend appropriate antimicrobial plaque-control agents for various patient types,
- 26. Use polishing procedures to remove plaque and stain without causing trauma or discomfort,
- 27. Select and use appropriate anesthetics and injections to achieve desired anesthesia,
- 28. Assess a patient's medical, physical, and mental status to determine necessity for anxiety control And the appropriate use of nitrous-oxide/oxygen sedation,
- 29. Describe and implement proper technique for nitrous-oxide/oxygen conscious sedation and
- 30. Evaluate a patient's oral tissues to determine the need for and perform, if necessary, gingival Curettage.

Total Hours: 48 clinic (lab) hours per semester to be arranged with the instructor

Catalog Description: This course will provide the opportunity to become more proficient in the clinical skills learned and practiced in previous clinical courses and to prepare for success on the state clinical licensing examinations. It is offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Textbooks: The Taft College Dental Hygiene Department Clinic Manual.

Additional Instructional Materials:

Wilkins, Esther M. *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, 2012. Print.

Nield-Gehrig, Jill S. *Fundamentals of Periodontal Instrumentation*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, 2012. Print.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate advance experience in the treatment of adult patients,
- 2. Demonstrate mastery of clinical procedures utilizing scaling, polishing and fluoride application techniques,
- 3. Demonstrate mastery of oral inspection, oral cancer screening, dental and periodontal charting and assessment,
- 4. Demonstrate mastery in ultrasonic scaling, and
- 5. Demonstrate administration of nitrous-oxide/oxygen sedation, local anesthesia and gingival curettage.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Clinical Patient Treatment

- A. Moderate or heavy calculus
- B. Early to advanced periodontal disease
- C. Utilize the 5 steps in the dental hygiene process to care.

Unit II      Advanced Treatment Procedures of Difficult Dental Hygiene Cases

- A. Local anesthesia
- B. Nitrous oxide sedation
- C. Ultrasonic scaling
- D. Soft tissue curettage
- E. Subgingival irrigation
- F. Periodontal assessment
- G. Root planing

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 16 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Independent reading and
- 2. Studying.

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. One-on-one skill demonstration and evaluation by the clinical faculty on more advanced treatment procedures while treating patients and
- 2. Supervised treatment of appropriately selected patients to gain entry skill level into the profession

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Clinical evaluation of oral inspection, periodontal and dental charting, analgesia and anesthesia administration, deposit removal, administration of therapeutics and other clinical patient treatment,
- 2. Daily Feedback Forms, and
- 3. Obtain license to practice Dental Hygiene.