

Dental Hygiene

Nature of the Profession

Dental hygienists provide preventive dental care. They teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene. They use instruments to remove calculus, stain, and plaque from teeth. They also take and develop dental x-rays.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the techniques and sciences related to dental hygiene
- Verbal ability to instruct others
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and eye-hand coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people who may be tense and nervous
- Ability to do precise work
- Patience and tact

EDUCATION

The educational requirement is a two-year associate degree or a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Lincoln, Gering (B)

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist must be at least 19 years of age, graduate from an accredited dental hygiene program, and pass the exams.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association Department of Guidance

Web Address: www.ada.org

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Web Address: www.adha.org

Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association

Web Address: www.nedha.org