ABOUT THE MAJOR

The dental hygienist is a member of the dental health team who provides educational, preventive, and therapeutic oral health services. Hygienists must use critical decision-making skills to reach conclusions about their patients and clients dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data.

Skills and abilities this major develops includes: patient evaluation, critical thinking skills, scientific inquiry, ethical decision-making, ability to work with diverse populations, fine motor skills, communication skills, and knowledge of human anatomy.

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER GRADUATION

Career Opportunities
According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (2017), employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow nationwide by 19% from 2014 to 2024, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Central Indiana will likely experience less growth in hiring, because of current saturation in the market.

Salary Information
Salaries for dental hygienists vary depending on location and type of practice. The last reported survey from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, dated May 2015, shows that the median yearly salary for dental hygienists nationally was $72,720. In Indiana, the mean yearly salary was $67,020.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary.)

Graduate & Professional School Paths
Dental Hygiene students might pursue advanced degrees in the following areas: Dental Hygiene, Business Administration, and Education.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

IU School of Dentistry
dentistry.iu.edu

The American Dental Hygienists Association
www.adha.org

American Dental Association
www.ada.org/en

Sample Coursework:
- Chemistry
- Anatomy and physiology
- Biochemistry and nutrition
- Medical and dental emergencies
- General pathology
- Clinical periodontics
- Radiology

Possible Careers:
- Dental hygienist clinician
- Corporate dental hygienist
- Educator
- Community health dental hygienist
- Researcher

Where Could I Work?
- Indiana University Health
- Midwest Dental
- Eskenazi Health
- Heartland Dental
- Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County

Complementing Interests:

Social  Realistic  Conventional

Get your interest code at go.iupui.edu/interests

Have questions for Academic & Career Development? Schedule an appointment:
acd.iupui.edu  (317) 274-4856