

**Course Outline for:** DENH 1140 Pre-Clinic Theory**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program
4. Corequisites: DENH 1141 Pre-Clinic Skill Development
5. MnTC Goals: None

Foundational knowledge and concepts set students up for success to work with patients in a clinical setting. This theory-based instruction is designed to give students the scientific understanding and practical principles needed to provide effective patient care. Areas of focus include oral health and disease, infection control, medical emergencies, preventative care, patient communication and special needs patients. Students receive practical application experience in pre-clinical skill development.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** May 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Dental Hygienist
2. Personal Protective Equipment
3. Infection Control in the Dental Setting
4. Medical/Dental History
5. Vital Signs
6. Emergencies in the dental environment
7. Extra Oral and Intra Oral examination
8. Dental Charting
9. Deposits of the Teeth
10. Gingival and Periodontal Diseases
11. Oral Hygiene Instructions
12. Communication Skills
13. Special Needs Patient
14. Cultural Competency
15. Health Literacy

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Identify Dental Hygiene scope of practice.
2. Distinguish infection control associated with the dental environment.
3. Identify the importance of the Medical/Dental History Form.
4. Recognize a routine to categorize vital signs on all dental patients.
5. Identify physical symptoms, causes, preventive measures, and remedies for emergency situations in the dental setting.

6. Identify the proper steps of completing the Intra-Extra Oral Exam.
7. Recognize the various components of the Dental Chart.
8. Identify the parts of the periodontium.
9. Describe deposits that are found on the dentition.
10. Report various oral hygiene homecare products for patients and/or their caretakers.
11. Identify a variety of communication skills that can be used during the dental appointment.
12. Classify developmental stages of life to oral health and patient care.
13. Identify the medical considerations and their appropriate treatment modifications for special needs patients.
14. Identify factors of health literacy.
15. Recognize cultural competency and humility.

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Assignments
2. Discussions
3. Exams

**F. Special Information:**

None