

Course Outline for: DENH 1141 Pre-Clinic Skill Development**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 4
Lab hours per week: 8
2. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program
3. Corequisites: DENH 1140 Pre-Clinic Theory
4. MnTC Goals: None

Build confidence and critical thinking skills to ensure you are ready for the clinical challenges that lie ahead in dental hygiene education. Focus is on mastering the basic procedures and techniques essential for dental hygiene practice, including instrumentation, patient management, infection control, and communication. Students practice foundational skills in a controlled and supportive learning environment to prepare for safe, effective, and ethical patient care in a clinical setting. Students prepare for patient care by allowing them to practice in a controlled and supportive environment before engaging with patients. Small groups along with simulation materials build practical application skill development.

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

1. Normandale Dental Clinic Introduction
2. Parts of the Dental Unit
3. Infection Control in the Dental Setting
4. Ergonomics
5. Basic Instrument Management
6. Medical/Dental History
7. Vital Signs
8. Emergencies in the dental environment
9. Extra Oral and Intra Oral Examination
10. Clinical Features of the Gingiva
11. Periodontal Instrumentation
12. Dental Charting
13. Oral Hygiene Instructions
14. Communication Skills
15. Selective Polishing

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Recognize all components of the Normandale Dental Clinic.
2. Identify the parts and uses of the dental unit.
3. Demonstrate infection control protocol and sterilization procedures.

4. Discuss the importance of the components of Medical/Dental History.
5. Demonstrate a routine to assess vital signs on all dental patients.
6. Identify preventative measures in the dental setting.
7. Identify the key components (causes, symptoms and remedies) of dental emergencies.
8. Demonstrate principles of ergonomics associated with the dental hygiene appointment.
9. Identify the proper steps of the Intra-Extra Oral Exam.
10. Recognize the components and steps for completing the Dental Chart.
11. Identify the parts of dental hygiene instruments and how to apply them intraorally.
12. Identify the parts of the periodontium in both healthy and diseased states.
13. Demonstrate basic dental hygiene instrumentation techniques.
14. Explain oral hygiene instructions specific to patient needs.
15. Explain the importance of effective communication techniques related to patient care.
16. Apply the basic steps of selective polishing of the dentition.

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

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

1. Lab Performance Evaluations
2. Assignments
3. Exam

F. Special Information:

None