

Course Outline for: DENH 2264 Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist

A. Course Description:

1. Number of credits: 2
2. Lecture hours per week: 2
3. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program
DENH 1112 Oral and Facial Anatomy
DENH 1142 Clinic 1 Theory
DENH 1143 Clinic 1
BIOL 2043 Microbiology
4. Corequisites: DENH 2240 Clinic 2 Theory
DENH 2241 Clinic 2
5. MnTC Goals: None

Periodontal diseases are multi-factorial bacterial infections within the oral cavity that affects over half of the U.S. population. Periodontal diseases not only affect the oral cavity but can impact other parts of the body. Periodontics is the branch of dentistry which encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth. Dental Hygienists play a critical role in the assessment, classification, and treatment of these diseases. Students learn concepts that are directly applicable to the dental hygiene process of care, including assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: May 2025

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

1. Review of the Periodontium
2. Gingival Assessment
3. Periodontal Assessment
4. Radiographic Assessment
5. Oral Biofilms
6. Host Immune Response/Host Modulation
7. Risk Factors
8. Periodontal Health
9. Gingival Diseases
10. Periodontitis
11. Other Periodontal Conditions
12. Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy
13. Periodontal Surgeries
14. Dental Implants
15. Periodontal Maintenance/Referral
16. Technological Advances in Periodontics

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify the tissues of the periodontium.
2. Recognize the current technological advances in periodontics.
3. Explain the etiology of periodontal diseases.
4. Describe the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of periodontal diseases.
5. Discuss the clinical and histopathologic features of periodontal diseases.
6. Utilize the appropriate assessment techniques.
7. Determine the classification of periodontal diseases.
8. Differentiate the general principles of all phases of periodontal therapy.
9. Apply the assessment information to the diagnostic and treatment planning steps.
10. Select appropriate treatment modalities utilized in the therapy and management of the periodontal patient.

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

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

1. Exams
2. Assignments
3. Projects

F. Special Information:

None