

**Course Outline for:** DENH 2281 Preventive Concepts in Community Dental Health**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: None

Education in the core functions of public health, evidence-based prevention strategies, research methodology, epidemiology, and health promotion strategies, equip the dental hygienist with the knowledge and skills for community dental care. Students learn about the important role they play in public health policy, advocacy and improving access to care. Through designing, implementing, and evaluating an interprofessional, community-based oral program, students gain competence to serve community and alternative practice settings.

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

1. Introduction to Community Dental Health
2. Need, Demand, Utilization and Provisions of Dental Services
3. Core Functions of Public Health
4. Community Based Oral Disease Prevention Strategies
5. Advocacy & Funding for Oral Health Programs
6. Introduction into Biostatistics & Research Methodology
7. Evidence-Based Practice & Critical Analysis of Research
8. Epidemiology
9. Fluoride Delivery Systems and School Based Sealant Programs
10. Health Literacy and Equitable Care
11. Interprofessional Education
12. Oral Health Education & Promotion
13. Oral Health Program Assessment, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation
14. Community-Based Prevention Programs

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Discuss the distribution of oral health workforce with regard to access to care.
2. Summarize public health career options available for dental hygienists such as alternative practice settings and community agencies.
3. Differentiate specific types of research studies such as epidemiological, correlational and experimental, based upon characteristics in research design.
4. Analyze current research articles from peer-reviewed journals.

5. Formulate evidence-based decisions towards total patient care.
6. Describe demographics and current trends affecting public health.
7. Relate dental disease prevention strategies as a means towards community-based oral health.
8. Examine the levels of government that relate to public health.
9. Recognize the major health policy documents that guide public health programming.
10. Illustrate the importance of designing culturally responsive community programs.
11. Participate in advocacy efforts to advance the profession and support access to oral health initiatives.
12. Formulate the elements needed in a dental public health education program.
13. Incorporate the concepts of assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation, in a public health program.
14. Use data to assess the quality of resources and services in the community.
15. Construct a community dental oral health service presentation by incorporating key lesson planning components, and educational methodologies.
16. Evaluate interprofessional healthcare practices in local communities.

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

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

1. Assignments/Worksheets
2. Quizzes/Examinations
3. Group/Team Community Dental Health Field Project
4. Community Enrichment Opportunities

**F. Special Information:**

None