Dental Hygiene Education

Curricula, Program, Enrollment and Graduate Information

October 21, 2014
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Dental Hygiene Education

Dental hygienists are licensed oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases in order to protect the oral cavity, and also to protect the patients’ total health. They are graduates of accredited dental hygiene education programs in colleges and universities, and must pass a written national board examination and a clinical examination to obtain state licensure.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Dental Hygiene Education

- **Entry-level programs** prepare graduates for the clinical practice of dental hygiene. These include certificate, associate degree and baccalaureate degree programs.
  - A **dental hygiene education** requires an average of 84 credit hours for an associate degree, or 118 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree.¹
  - **The majority of programs** (88%) are semester-based and 34% include summer study.¹
  - **Few programs** (14%) offer a part-time curriculum and 29% offer at least some opportunities for distance learning. Master’s degree and degree completion programs are most likely to offer distance learning.¹
  - **Entry-level programs** are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). [CODA Website](http://www.coda.org)

Dental Hygiene Education (Cont’d)

- **Degree Completion programs** are designed for licensed dental hygienists who have completed their professional education and earned a certificate or associate’s degree. The baccalaureate degree awarded through these programs can be in dental hygiene or a related area.

- **Master Degree programs** prepare graduates for careers as educators, administrators and researchers. Curriculum contain coursework in the following subjects:
  1. 88% Research Methods and Applications
  2. 88% Health Education
  3. 82% Leadership
  4. 71% Legal and Ethical Issues of Hygiene Practice

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Dental Hygiene Education (Cont’d)

- **Master Degree programs.** Curriculum contain coursework in the following subjects: (Cont’d)
  - 59% Practice Administration
  - 52% Finance and Reimbursement
  - 47% Human Resources/Supervision of Allied Personnel
  - 29% Dental Hygiene Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
  - 24% Administration and Monitoring of Anesthesia
  - 6% Restorative Techniques

- Forty-four percent of all programs indicated that over 75% of their current students are interested in teaching

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Preparation and Admission to Entry-Level Programs

- Admission requirements and prerequisites vary from institution to institution, but generally include:
  - high school diploma or GED
  - high school courses in mathematics, chemistry, biology, English
  - minimum “C” average in high school
  - college entrance test scores
  - typically up to 40 credit hours of prerequisite college courses in chemistry, English, speech, psychology and sociology
  - dependent on the institution, a personal interview, dexterity test, and/or essay
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Preparation and Admission to Entry-Level Programs (Cont’d)

- 70% of dental hygiene programs use college science GPA as part of the criteria in admissions procedures; 70% include overall college GPA as admissions criteria.²

- The majority of dental hygiene programs (99%) have maximum enrollment cap.¹
  - Admission to a program is typically highly competitive. In 2011/12, associate programs reported a mean of 81 applicants with 31 admissions, while baccalaureate programs reported a mean of 76 applicants with 28 admissions.

- 26% of programs responded that they offer advanced placement.¹

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¹. American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) 2012 Dental Hygiene Education Program Director Survey, 2014, ADHA (Unofficial).
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Entry-Level Dental Hygiene Curricula

- Accredited dental hygiene programs require an average of 2,932 clock hours of curriculum. This includes 659 clock hours of supervised clinical dental hygiene instruction.²
  - general education courses including English, speech, psychology and sociology.
  - basic science courses including general chemistry, anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, nutrition, and pharmacology.
  - dental science courses including dental anatomy, head and neck anatomy, oral embryology and histology, oral pathology, radiography, periodontology, pain control and dental materials.

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Entry-Level Dental Hygiene Curricula
(Cont’d)

- dental hygiene science courses including oral health education/preventive counseling, patient management, clinical dental hygiene, community dental health, medical and dental emergencies, and supervised instruction in pre-clinical and clinical practice.

- 29% of all programs use extended clinical facilities beyond their campus and 82% require students to perform a clinical rotation in a community or public health setting.¹

¹. American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) 2012 Dental Hygiene Education Program Director Survey, 2014, ADHA (Unofficial).
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Differentiation of Degrees

- Both associate and baccalaureate degrees are considered entry level to the profession; either prepares graduates for the clinical practice of dental hygiene in a private dental office or public clinic.
  - In addition to clinical practice, graduates with a baccalaureate or higher degree have the opportunity for alternative career pathways in education, administration, public health and research.

- Associate programs offer an average of 2,888 total clock hours of instruction, while baccalaureate programs offer an average of 3,129 total clock hours of instruction.²
  - Dental hygiene programs awarding associate degrees offer about the same average number of didactic and laboratory clock hours devoted to patient care as programs that award baccalaureate degrees.

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Differentiation of Degrees (Cont’d)

– Baccalaureate programs, on average, offer more clinical clock hours devoted to patient care than associate programs (591 versus 541).\(^2\)

– On average, baccalaureate programs provide notably more clock hours of instruction in written communication, chemistry, oral health education/preventive counseling, and patient management.

▶ The **average estimated total cost of tuition and fees**\(^2\) for an associate degree is $22,692\(^2\), for a baccalaureate degree, $36,382\(^2\), and a master’s degree, $30,421\(^4\)

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4. American Dental Hygienists’ Association, 2013, Division of Education.

\(^2\) Average estimated cost – In-State/District.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Dental Hygiene Job Market for Students

- 66% of the program directors assist students in their employment search with 92% referring students to contacting dentists. Difficulty of most students finding employment after graduation ranged from average (41%), difficult (38%) to very difficult (10%).

- Private dental office practices (92%), private dental specialty practices (57%) and community health clinics (28%) were listed by program directors as the top three employers hiring most of the new graduates from their program.¹

¹ American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) 2012 Dental Hygiene Education Program Director Survey, 2014, ADHA (Unofficial).
Number of Dental Hygiene Programs and Degrees Offered 2014

- Entry Level Programs: 335 *
  - Associate Degree offered (i.e.: AS, AAS, AA) = 288
  - Bachelor Degree offered (BSDH) = 56 programs
  - Certificate offered = 8 programs
    (Program totals do not equal 335 since 17 programs offer multiple degree and/or certificate options)
  - Community and Technical Colleges with bachelor degree articulation agreements = 45 programs

* CODA lists 336 entry level programs, but this includes discontinued and withdrawn programs.

5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Number of Dental Hygiene Programs and Degrees Offered 2014 (Cont’d) 5

- Degree Completion Programs (Bachelor) .................. 53
  - BSDH (Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene) offered = 42 programs

- Related Degrees offered = 11 programs
  (i.e.: BSHS [Bachelor of Science in Health Science], BSAH [Bachelor of Science in Allied Health])

5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Number of Dental Hygiene Programs and Degrees Offered 2013 (Cont’d)

- Master Degree Programs
  - MSDH (Master of Science in Dental Hygiene) offered = 17 programs
  - Related Degrees offered = 4 programs
    (i.e.: MS [Master of Science], MSHS [Master of Science in Health Science], MHS [Master of Health Science], MS: OHCP [Master of Science: Oral Health Care Practitioner]

5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Dental Hygiene Education Programs by State by Degree 2014

October 21, 2014

* CODA lists 336 entry level programs, but this includes discontinued and withdrawn programs.

5. American Dental Hygienists' Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Survey.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Educational Settings 2014

Entry Level Programs:

- Associate Degree granting Institutions.....244 programs
  - Community/Junior College = 177
  - Technical College/Institute = 55
  - Other (i.e.: college, academy) = 12

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5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Educational Settings 2014\(^5\) (Cont’d)

**Entry Level Programs:**

- Baccalaureate Degree granting Institutions…..91 programs
  (May offer more than one type of degree, i.e. BS, AS, Certificate)
  - Schools of Allied Health Sciences = 37
  - Dental School = 23
    - Dental schools with a separate dental hygiene program = 3
      - School of Health Related Professions
      - Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
      - College of Allied Health Sciences
  - Other Schools or Colleges = 28
    (i.e.: College of Professional Studies,
     School of Medicine, Technical College or Institute,
     School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene)

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5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Degree Completion Programs:

- Degree Completion granting institutions.....53 programs
  - Schools of Allied Health Sciences = 23
  - Technical College/Institute = 3
  - Dental school = 14
    - Dental schools with a separate dental hygiene program = 1
      - School of Health Related Professions
  - Other Schools or Colleges = 12
    (i.e.: College of Health Professions, School of Medicine, College of Allied Health and Nursing)

5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Educational Settings 2014\(^5\) (Cont’d)

*Master Degree Programs:*
  - Master Degree granting institutions…..21 programs
    - Schools of Allied Health Sciences = 5
    - Dental school = 12
      - Dental schools with a separate dental hygiene program = 1
        - College of Allied Health Sciences
    - Other Schools or Colleges = 3
      (i.e.: College of Health, Science & Engineering, School of Medicine)

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5. American Dental Hygienists’ Association 2013 Dental Hygiene Program Surveys.
Classifications of Institutions Offering Dental Hygiene Education – Entry Level, Degree Completion and Master

Entry Level Dental Hygiene Programs, 2014

- Private-For Profit: 35 (11%)
- Private-Non Profit: 21 (6%)
- Public: 279 (83%)

Degree Completion Dental Hygiene Programs, 2014

- Private Non-Profit: 11 (21%)
- Public: 42 (79%)

Master Degree Dental Hygiene Programs, 2014

- Private-Non Profit: 3 (14%)
- Public: 18 (86%)

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Number of Educational Programs: 1990 - 2014

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Percent Increase/Decrease in the Number of Educational Programs: 1990 - 2014

- 5 Years (2010-2014): 3.7%
- 10 Years (2005-2014): 10.2%
- 15 Years (2000-2014): 16.1%
- 20 Years (1995-2014): 18.2%
- 25 Years (1990-2014): 55.8%

- 20 Years (1995-2014): 65.8%
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Classification of Institutions Offering New Entry Level Dental Hygiene Programs 2005-2009 and 2010-2014

Figure 1: New Dental Hygiene Programs 2005-2009

- Private-For Profit: 38%
- Private-Non Profit: 5%
- Public: 57%

Figure 2: New Dental Hygiene Programs 2010-2014

- Private-For Profit: 69%
- Private-Non Profit: 6%
- Public: 25%

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Facts Reported by Dental Hygiene Program Directors

Dental Hygiene Students
- 95.8% Female
- 4.2% Male
- 72.5% Non-Hispanic white

Dental Hygiene Faculty
- 92% program directors are dental hygienists
- 19% of program directors hold a doctoral degree and 73% a masters
- Programs reported a mean of 1.91 professors; 1.65 associate professors and 2.20 assistant professors
- Tenured faculty per rank: Programs reported a mean of 1.69 professors; 1.47 associate professors and 1.00 assistant professors

Top Challenges Facing Dental Hygiene Programs in the Near Future
- 33% reported job market saturation
- 19% reported fitting new content into already crowded curriculum
- 12% reported recruitment of qualified faculty
- Competition for qualified students, budgetary concerns and the number of hygiene programs available were also noted

Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Entry Level

Dental Hygiene Enrollment

Notes:
Data based on an average response rate of 86%, since not all programs responded to the surveys.
Data reflects both full-time and part-time students.

Source: American Dental Hygienists’ Association Dental Hygiene Program Surveys, 2009-2013
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Degree Completion
Dental Hygiene Enrollment

Notes:
Data based on an average response rate of 78.6%, since not all programs responded to the surveys.
Data reflects both full-time and part-time students.

Source: American Dental Hygienists' Association Dental Hygiene Program Surveys, 2009-2013
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Master Degree
Dental Hygiene Enrollment

Notes:
Data based on an average response rate of 81%, since not all programs responded to the surveys. Data reflects both full-time and part-time students.

Source: American Dental Hygienists' Association Dental Hygiene Program Surveys, 2009-2013
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Number of Graduates 1988 - 2012

Statistics are based on data obtained from the 1988-2012 American Dental Association (ADA) Survey of Allied Dental Education and the Survey of Dental Education: Volume 1 – Academic Programs, Enrollment and Graduates, 1988-2012.
Dental Hygiene Education Facts

Percent Increase/Decrease in the Number of Graduates 1988 - 2012

- 5-Years (2008-2012): 5.6% increase
- 10-Years (2003-2012): 8.4% increase
- 15-Years (1998-2012): 17.0% increase
- 20-Years (1992-2012): 28.7% increase
- 25-Years (1988-2012): 53.1% increase

- 5-Years (2008-2012): 13.5% increase
- 10-Years (2003-2012): 23.2% increase
- 15-Years (1998-2012): 34.4% increase
- 20-Years (1992-2012): 37.6% increase
- 25-Years (1988-2012): 82.3% increase