Dental Hygiene Department

Background
Metropolitan State University’s Dental Hygiene Department offers educational programs leading to a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) and a Master of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy (MSADT). Since its inception, the Department’s programs and curricula have focused on preparing licensed dental hygienists for advanced practice that enhances the oral health care needs of underserved and diverse populations. All of the Department's programs are built on a partnership with Normandale Community College as well as academic excellence and the values of collaborative community involvement, ethical conduct and social responsibility.

Careers
The growing healthcare environment creates exciting opportunities for dental hygiene practice and the delivery of oral health care. The Dental Hygiene Department's innovative educational programs prepare individuals for positions of responsibility, including opportunities in clinical practice, education, management, community health, leadership roles, research, and sales.

Program
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH)
The Baccalaureate Completion Program in Dental Hygiene provides associate degree dental hygienists from accredited institutions an opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH). The BSDH may be completed in two years. Program course work is primarily on-line and also provides the prerequisite course DENH 420, for those interested in pursuing the Master of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy (MSADT).

Admission Requirements
- Graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program or documentation of 12 or fewer credits remaining;
- Cumulative GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;
- Evidence of current unencumbered dental hygiene license equivalent to a Minnesota dental hygiene license.

BSDH Curriculum and Program Requirements
Graduation requires a minimum of 120 semester credits, including:
- 48 credits of General Education Liberal Studies course work across 10 Goal Areas (MnTC);
- A minimum of 30 credits completed at Metropolitan State University;
- A minimum of 40 upper-division level semester credits (GELS and major program courses);
- Completion of 6 upper division dental hygiene courses.

Required Courses
- DENH 300 Designing and Managing Teams in Oral Health Care
- DENH 310 Current and Relevant Topics for the Dental Hygienist
- DENH 320 Management of Oral Health Care Delivery
- DENH 330 Dental Hygiene Care for Culturally Diverse and Special Needs Populations
- DENH 410 Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Practice
- DENH 430P Dental Hygiene Capstone
- PHIL 321 Medical Ethics
- STAT 201 Statistics I
- WRIT 331 Writing in Your Major

From the following two courses, one course must be completed prior to enrollment in the DENH 430P Dental Hygiene Capstone course:
- DENH 420 Restorative Functions Theory and Lab (Prerequisite Course for MSADT Program) OR
- DENH 340 Educational Concepts in Dental Hygiene

Optional:
DENH 440 Restorative Functions Clinic (A one credit course leading to Restorative Functions certification by the MN State Board of Dentistry is available for enrollment in the semester following completion of the Restorative Functions Theory and Lab course. This option requires contractual agreement with a dentist for completion.)

Clinical Requirements
For BSDH students opting to enroll in DENH 440 or for those choosing to include a clinical component for DENH 430P, appropriate pre-clinical documentation is required. Detailed information is provided to students upon enrollment.
Transfer Course Credits and Articulation Agreements
Course credits taken at other accredited colleges and universities may be approved by resident faculty at Metropolitan State University. Contact an Academic Advisor at 651-793-1341 for additional information about existing articulation agreements and the course equivalency determination process.

Faculty
The Dental Hygiene Department has instructors who have distinguished themselves in their dental hygiene practice, as well as their academic careers.

Accreditation
Metropolitan State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

How to Apply
Prospective students must complete a Metropolitan State University application located at: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/apply/.

Applicants are also encouraged to attend a free information session. Updated dates and times for sessions can be found at: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/chcps/departments/dental/infoSessions.html or as arranged.
Background
Since its inception, the Dental Hygiene Department’s programs and curricula have focused on preparing licensed dental hygienists for advanced practice that enhances the oral health care needs of underserved and diverse populations. All of the Department’s programs are built on a partnership with Normandale Community College as well as academic excellence and the values of collaborative community involvement, ethical conduct and social responsibility.

Careers
The growing healthcare environment creates exciting opportunities for dental hygiene practice and the delivery of oral health care. The Dental Hygiene Department’s groundbreaking educational programs prepare individuals for positions of responsibility, including opportunities in clinical practice, education, management, community health, leadership roles, research, and sales.

Program
Graduate: Master of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy Program (MSADT)
The first of its kind in the country, this groundbreaking graduate program provides the theoretical and applied skills necessary for licensure as a Dental Therapist and certification as an Advanced Dental Therapist as defined by Minnesota Statute. The MSADT program prepares baccalaureate educated, licensed dental hygienists for advanced practice which enhances the oral health of underserved communities.

Admission Requirements
The graduate program requires a full-time commitment for six semesters. Applications are accepted for either fall or spring admission, with DENH course progression being completed as a member of a cohort.

Prerequisites:
• Complete Graduate Application for Admission to Metropolitan State University, an essay, references and computer proficiency form;
• Evidence of current unencumbered Minnesota Dental Hygiene license, including local anesthesia and nitrous oxide analgesic certification;
• Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0;
• Successful completion of DENH 420 Restorative Functions Theory and Lab or documentation of its equivalent;
• Evidence of a minimum number of hours in dental hygiene practice. May be completed while enrolled in MSADT coursework prior to DENH 660.

Required Courses
The MSADT program requires interdisciplinary and advanced dental therapy focused course work which covers three primary developmental phases for a total of 44 graduate credits:
• The science of health care delivery phase (6 credits total) focuses on working within diverse communities, communicating across cultures, understanding health care needs and the incidence of disease across populations and advancing safe, quality care.
• The clinical practice development phase (33 credits total) advances assessment, collaboration and care provision skills and includes the laboratory, simulation and clinical experiences.
• The leadership, synthesis phase (5 credits) extends health system and public policy knowledge and leadership skills.

Required Interdisciplinary Courses:
• NURS 605 Health Policy and Leadership
• NURS 608 Epidemiology
• HSCI 648 Designing for Quality in Health Care
Required Competency-Based Dental Courses:
- DENH 610 Health Assessment and Oral Diagnostic Reasoning
- DENH 620 Pharmacology Principles of Clinical Application
- DENH 630 Management of Dental Emergencies and Urgent Care
- DENH 640 Community-Based Primary Oral Healthcare I
- DENH 650 Community-Based Primary Oral Healthcare II
- DENH 660 Community-Based Primary Oral Healthcare III
- DENH 670 Community-Based Primary Oral Healthcare IV
- DENH 680 Community-Based Primary Oral Healthcare V
- DENH 690 Advanced Specialty Practices
- DENH 700 Advanced Community Specialty Internship
- DENH 710 Comprehensive Clinical Capstone

Requirement of Academic Standing
The College of Health, Community and Professional Studies (CHCPS) requires graduate students to remain in good standing and maintain a term and cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Transfer Course Credits and Articulation Agreements
Course credits taken at other accredited colleges and universities may be approved by resident faculty at Metropolitan State University. Contact an Academic Advisor at 651-793-1341 for additional information about the course equivalency determination process.

Faculty
The Dental Hygiene Department has instructors who have distinguished themselves in their clinical practice, as well as their academic careers.

Accreditation
Metropolitan State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. The MSADT Program is approved by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

How to Apply
Prospective students must complete a Metropolitan State University Graduate Programs application. Requirements can be found at http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/gradstudies/masters/msadt/applying.html.

Applicants are also encouraged to attend a free information session. Updated dates and times for sessions can be found at: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/chcps/departments/dental/info_sessions.html or as arranged.

Department contact information:
General Information: 651-793-1375
Department Advisor: 651-793-1379
Web: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/chcps/departments/dental/index.html

This information is available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. For more information, call Disabilities Services at 651-793-1549. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. An equal opportunity educator and employer.

November 2013