Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, Completion Degree

Welcome
Western Kentucky University’s Department of Allied Health, Program of Dental Hygiene offers educational opportunities to qualified men and women who wish to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of professional dental hygiene. Dental hygiene is a profession undergoing change. The impact of technology, consumer needs and expectations, societal changes and the complexity of total oral health care demand highly skilled, well-educated dental hygienists.

The dental hygiene program was established in August, 1970 and is fully accredited by the Council of Dental Education/Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The program of dental hygiene at Western has continually refined and expanded its efforts to improve the quality of dental hygiene practice through its graduates. In the Fall of 1987, an upper division program leading to the bachelor of science in dental hygiene was approved and initiated at the University. The baccalaureate program provides a solid foundation for future personal and professional growth of individuals. The baccalaureate degree dental hygiene student is educationally prepared to assume responsibility for teaching, research, and leadership.

Studying Online
Online classes require self-discipline and motivation, especially since you do not have a specific time and place established for class meetings. Familiarizing yourself with what’s required of an online student and the many tools available to support online learners is key!

The Orientation for Online Learners provides guest access to Blackboard, along with helpful information ranging from pre-enrollment through registration. It is designed to walk you through the different processes involved with admissions, financial aid, advising and registration. The Student Resource Portal provides one-click access to academic support and student resources across campus. The link to each area is provided below:

Orientation for Online Learners:  www.wku.edu/online/orientation
Student Resource Portal:           www.wku.edu/online/srp

In addition to online support, which is accessible in these areas, there is also a team of distance learning professionals available to answer questions, listen to your concerns and provide solutions. You can reach us at learn.online@wku.edu.
Admission Requirements
In order to be considered for admission into the baccalaureate degree completion in dental hygiene, a student must be a graduate or a future graduate of a dental hygiene program that is accredited through the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation.
It is recommended to contact Lynn Austin lynn.austin@wku.edu, Department Head of the Department of Allied Health to discuss curriculum, transfer credit, etc.

Please note: Deadlines are often flexible, depending on the program of study. If you are considering applying after the suggested deadline, we encourage you to check with the appropriate academic department or call 270-745-5173.

Degree Program Requirements
In addition to the courses for baccalaureate degree completion all required courses for WKU’s associate degree in dental hygiene must be satisfied (either through transfer or completing them at WKU). Additionally, you must fulfill all University academic requirements and regulations found in the undergraduate catalog under “Academic Requirements and Regulations.”

Program Structure
At this time, 100% of the coursework can be completed online through a combination of semester-based web, and non-semester based on demand web courses.

Financial Aid Eligibility
Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose, which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran’s benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources
- WKU Scholarship Information, including scholarships for transfer students: [http://www.wku.edu/scholarship/](http://www.wku.edu/scholarship/)
- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: [https://studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov)
- Scholarships: How to find them, how to apply, types of scholarships: [https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships](https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships)
Career Resources and Average Salary Information

Resources to aid in finding a major right for you, as well as the most current information regarding average salary, job outlook and the most common positions within the field, may be found on the websites below:

- Find Occupations, Salary Information and Job Outlook: http://www.onetonline.org/find/career
- Major and Career Search: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
- What Can I do with this major: http://www.wku.edu/career/wcidwtmajor.php

Contact Information

WKU Online Support:
Email: learn.online@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5173
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932