B.S. IN DENTAL HYGIENE
Dental hygienists are oral health clinicians and educators who help the public develop and maintain optimal oral health. As members of the dental health team, dental hygienists perform preventive and therapeutic services under the supervision of a dentist. Specific responsibilities may include: removing deposits and stains from patients' teeth; providing instructions for patients' self-care and nutritional counseling; applying topical fluoride to prevent tooth decay; and administering local anesthetic.

Dental hygienists are also responsible for recording medical and dental histories; exposing and processing dental radiographs (x-rays); placing sealants on posterior teeth; and preparing other diagnostic aids for the dentist.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
The Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene (due to commence in the 2013 Fall semester) requires a total of 125 credit hours, including 64 hours of prerequisite liberal arts courses with a grade point average of at least 2.0. The prerequisites may not be taken on a pass/fail option and each must show a C grade or better. Remedial courses cannot be used to fulfill prerequisite requirements. Once accepted into the dental hygiene program, the student will enroll in courses designed to provide educational and clinical training necessary for the practice of dental hygiene.

Candidates for admission to the program must be high school graduates with a concentration in the sciences or GED equivalent. High school courses in biology and chemistry are necessary for success in the program.

Applicants must first make application to IU Northwest before applying to the dental hygiene program. Applicants are required to attend the Dental Hygiene Open House in order to be considered for admission. The application deadline is February 1 of the year the student wishes to begin. Students are notified of acceptance into the program by April 15. Admission to the program is competitive and class size is limited.

COURSEWORK
General Education Courses:
- English Composition
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Public Speaking
- Computer Science
- Human Biology
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Microbiology

Select Dental Hygiene Courses:
- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Medical and Dental Emergencies
- Dental Radiology
- Oral Histology and Embryology
- Periodontics
- Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Nutrition for Health Professionals
- Oral Pathology

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
The Dental Hygiene Program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (a specialized accreditation body recognized by the Council of Post-Secondary Education and by the U.S. Department of Education).

The Dental Hygiene Department has four full-time faculty appointments and many adjunct faculty members who bring years of experience to the classroom from their time spent in private dental offices and educational institutions.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.S. IN DENTAL HYGIENE?
A graduate of the program is eligible to take the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination, the North East Regional Board Examination (NERB), and the Indiana State Board Dental Jurisprudence Examination. The student must be successful on all of the examinations in order to be licensed in Indiana (similar requirements are necessary for other state licensures). Upon successful completion of the examinations, the graduate earns the privilege to practice dental hygiene in the state of Indiana.

Employment opportunities are available in private dental offices and clinics, hospitals, local, state and federal public health facilities, educational institutions, research, and dental companies.

HANDS-ON LEARNING
The education of the student is enhanced by experience in the IU Northwest On-Site Dental Clinic. The campus offers a fully equipped dental clinic with 16 dental stations, six radiology cubicles and two darkrooms.

Additional experience is garnered through rotations in private dental offices and clinics, and in local, state and federal public health facilities throughout Northwest Indiana. This enables students to gain experience with dental healthcare teams within and outside of the university.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES
The students are members of the American Dental Hygienists' Association as well as the IU Northwest Dental Education Club. They are required to attend meetings for both the association and club.

RELATED DEGREE OPTION
B.S. in Dental Hygiene Completion Option (for licensed dental hygienists with an associate's degree)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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