WLAC Dental Hygiene
Student Learning Outcomes ~ Main Domains

The dental hygiene program will provide opportunities for the student to become competent through an active learning process of organizing, interpreting and synthesizing information. Educational activities will be provided that enable the learner to develop expertise by integrating fundamental knowledge, scientific principles and applied psychomotor skills. Upon graduation:

Professionalism

The dental hygiene graduates must appreciate their role as health professionals at the local, state, and national levels. The graduates must possess the ethics, values, skills, and knowledge integral to all aspects of the profession.

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

The dental hygiene graduates must possess a thorough foundation in the biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences and be able to apply those principles in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of treatment. The graduates must also be prepared to influence others to facilitate access to care and services.

Patient Care

The dental hygiene graduates must be competent in the performance and delivery of oral health promotion and disease prevention services in public health, private practice and alternative settings. The graduates must be able to exercise critical thinking and sound clinical judgment and communicate with patients.

Approved by:
General Faculty 2010 and Dental Hygiene Advisory Board 2010

After acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program, each student must:

1. Undergo a physical examination, complete eye examination and update necessary immunizations annually.
2. Undergo drug testing and a criminal background check.
3. Obtain “CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer” certification.
4. Show evidence of health insurance.
5. Purchase required instruments, supplies and uniforms.

The Dental Hygiene Profession is a highly rewarding and satisfying occupation. Individuals interested in the field of Dental Hygiene must be aware of occupational risks when working in the healthcare environment.

1. Occupational Exposure Risk:
   Dental Hygienists treat patients that may have a wide range of medical conditions including infectious diseases. Infection control protocols and protective barriers are required when treating all patients to prevent exposure to bodily fluids such as blood and saliva.

2. Hazardous Material Exposure:
The dental environment contains many materials that are considered hazardous. Mercury, Nitrous Oxide, Dental Radiation and many other materials require proper management to prevent hazardous exposures.

3. Occupational Ergonomic Risk:
   Clinical dental hygiene requires that individuals be in good physical condition and have proper posture when providing patient services. Application of ergonomically sound techniques will prevent work-related injuries such as back and shoulder pains and carpal tunnel syndrome.

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
West Los Angeles College’s Dental Hygiene program is among the most respected in the country. WLAC currently offers a two-year, full-time Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene.

Dental hygienists work in general and specialty dental offices offering many different types of preventive services including radiology, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, orthodontics and oral surgery. Other career options include education, sales, administration and consulting.

The WLAC Dental Hygiene Program is a limited-enrollment program with specific entrance requirements.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE
Dental Hygiene