



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Dental Hygiene, 180 credit points

Programme code:	OGHYG
Programme Title:	Study Programme in Dental Hygiene
Credits:	180 credits
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 28 January 2009 (Dnr FAK3 2009/76) and is valid from the autumn semester of 2009 at Karlstad University. Revised on 1 Oct 2009, 11 Nov 2010, 4 June 2012 valid from the Autumn term of 2010
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree Level:	Bachelor
Degree Type:	General (a minimum of 180 credits is required) and Professional (a minimum of 120 credits is required)
Prerequisites:	General admission requirements plus upper secondary level Mathematics B, Social Science A and <i>either</i> Natural Science B <i>or</i> <u>Physics A</u> , Chemistry A and Biology A (field-specific eligibility 16, see www.kau.se/omradesbehorighet). General admission requirements, plus field-specific eligibility A14: Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Social Science 1B or 1a1+1a2, and Natural Science 2 (or Biology 1, Physics 1a or 1b1+1a2 and Chemistry 1)

Dates of revision

1 Oct 2009 (Dean), 11 Nov 2010 (Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences), 4 June 2012 valid from the Autumn term of 2010.

General Information

A licensed dental hygienist is expected to demonstrate constant awareness of relevant ethical considerations in his or her work and to adhere to tested and established scientific knowledge and experience. Dental hygienists develop and carry out strategies aimed at preserving oral health, teach patients preventive care and evaluate efforts to improve the oral health of individuals, groups and society as a whole. Dental hygienists prevent, examine, diagnose, plan, carry out, evaluate and document treatment of patients of all age groups in public and private dental health clinics. Dental hygienists also function as consultants, supervisors and educators of health care staff. Dental hygienists work independently in a number of different areas, in cooperation with the dental team and with other health professionals.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

The Dental Hygiene programme at Karlstad University aims for students to acquire the necessary knowledge and professional competence to work as dental hygienists. The programme also aims for students to attain the necessary qualifications to continue towards postgraduate studies.

Undergraduate education should develop the student's ability:

- to make independent and critical judgements,
- to identify, formulate and solve problems independently, and
- to deal with changes at work.

In addition to the knowledge and skills required within the specific field of study, the students should develop the ability:

- to gather and interpret research information and data,
- to follow the developments in the field, and
- to communicate field-related information to non-specialists.

(Chapter 1, §8 of the Higher Education Act, SFS1992:1434)

Objectives of the Professional Degree in Dental Hygiene (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053)

Upon completion of at least 120 credits and the specific degree requirements, students are awarded a University Diploma in Dental Hygiene (the Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100, Appendix 2). Students should also demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge to qualify as dental hygienists.

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a diploma in dental hygiene, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge of the scientific basis of the field and an understanding of current research and development,
- knowledge and understanding of the importance of dental hygiene for patients' general health and well-being, and
- knowledge of relevant statutes and regulations.

Skills and abilities

To earn a diploma in dental hygiene, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to initiate and carry out treatment and preventive care of individual patients and groups of patients,

- the ability to work independently in examining patients for dental caries and periodontitis and to assess their need for treatment,
- the ability to carry out, evaluate and document treatment following relevant statutes and regulations, and
- the ability to analyse, assess and make use of relevant information and to communicate this knowledge and information to others, thereby contributing to the development of the profession and of dental health care in general.

Attitude and assessment abilities

To earn a diploma in dental hygiene, students should be able to demonstrate

- self-knowledge and empathy,
- the ability to make a holistic evaluation of a course of treatment on the basis of relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects with special focus on human rights,
- a professional approach to patients and their family members and an attitude of respect for patients and their needs,
- an understanding of the importance of team work and collaboration with other professions, and
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training.

For a degree in Dental Hygiene students are required to complete an independent degree project.

Upon completion of the Study Programme in Dental Hygiene at Karlstad University, students should also be able to demonstrate

- the ability to comply with the ethical code of conduct,
- the ability to cooperate and collaborate with various professions, both locally, nationally and internationally,
- an understanding of international and cultural conditions and differences, and
- the ability to address relevant issues about gender, equality, sustainable development and other environmental considerations.

At Karlstad University the independent degree project carries 7.5 ECTS cr.

In addition to the national and local objectives listed above, the dental hygiene programme at Karlstad University conforms to laws and statutes regulating the aims and content of the programme.

Objectives of the General Degree in Dental Hygiene (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100)

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a Bachelor's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the main subject area, including knowledge of the scientific basis of the field, knowledge of pertinent research methods, in-depth understanding of a chosen area of specialisation and basic knowledge of current research and development work.

Skills and abilities

To earn a Bachelor's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and interpret relevant information and relate it to a specific problem, and the ability to discuss various phenomena, problems and situations from a critical perspective,
- the ability to work independently in identifying, formulating and solving problems and working to a set deadline,
- the ability to communicate and interact with various groups in presenting and discussing information, problems and solutions both orally and in written form, and
- the skills required to work independently within the specific field studied.

Attitude and assessment abilities

To earn a Bachelor's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to make appropriate judgements within the specific field of study with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- an understanding of the concept of knowledge, its role in society and our responsibility for the way in which it is used, and
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training.

Programme Structure

The courses on the programme are distance courses with a number of on-campus meetings at Karlstad University. Students are assigned a study group with other students on the course and are also expected to work independently.

The programme comprises 3 years of study. Upon completion of 120 ECTS credits, students are awarded a University Diploma in Dental Hygiene (mandatory courses marked with * in appendix) and upon completion of 180 ECTS credits a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science with a Major in Oral Health.

The structure of the programme is designed to allow students the opportunity to research, analyse, evaluate and solve various types of problems. Graduates are therefore well prepared for their future professional role as well as for further academic studies.

In order for students to learn how to implement their theoretical knowledge, the programme integrates theoretical and practical course components; the aim is to form a cohesive whole which allows for personal development and a meaningful learning process. Clinical studies comprise methodological exercises, laboratory work, group work, case studies and patient work. The clinical trainee periods are carried out at the student clinic at Karlstad University and at public and private dental health clinics in Sweden. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with the training periods.

Students are encouraged to take part in studies on other cultures and their dental health care systems in the hope of promoting cross-national and cross-cultural knowledge and understanding, respect and tolerance. Students partake in international studies and activities at the university; moreover, students may apply to take certain courses or parts of courses abroad.

Programme Curriculum

Content and range of studies

The Dental Hygiene programme comprises a total of 180 ECTS credits and consists of courses in the main subject Oral Health (120 ECTS credits) and odontology (60 ECTS credits; see appendix for further details).

Oral Health is a subject in the social and behavioural sciences with a focus on practical implementation. The course includes education in the knowledge and skills required to carry out and develop oral health care as well as to promote oral health care at the level of the individual patient as well as society as a whole, on the basis of patient needs and an understanding of human interaction.

Odontology is a medical discipline based in the natural sciences with a focus on the knowledge and skills required to work with preventing and/or reducing oral health problems related to dental caries, periodontitis and other oral health problems and disorders.

Courses

The programme comprises a number of courses at different levels:

- Basic courses, 1-30 credits,
- Intermediate courses, 31-90 credits,
- Advanced courses, 91-120 credits.

Basic level courses aim for students to acquire knowledge of, and to be able to define and describe central phenomena in the fields of oral health and odontology. Students are expected to acquire a scientific approach to the subjects studied and the ability to describe basic factors affecting human needs. Students are also expected to acquire basic professional skills as dental hygienists.

Intermediate level courses aim for students to learn to compare and describe links and relations between various phenomena in oral health and odontology. Students are expected to acquire specific professional assessment, intervention and evaluation skills as well as general academic skills such as data analysis, data evaluation and argumentation.

Advanced level courses aim for students to deepen their knowledge in the field of oral health. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the ability to analyse data, draw conclusions, make evaluations and reason in a manner consistent with accepted scientific practice. Students will also write and present a degree project (15 credits) using scientific research methods to conduct an in-depth study in the main subject area of oral health.

The programme includes courses which contain studies in tobacco prevention, which correspond to the courses offered by professional associations (called Diploma course step I and Diploma course step II).

The programme includes the following courses:

- Oral Health, 1-30 ECTS credits:
 - Health/oral Health – an introduction, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health with a Focus on the Individual I*, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health Science and Research Methods I*, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health - Clinical Studies I*, 7.5 credits
- Oral Health, 31-90 ECTS credits:
 - Oral Health with a Focus on Children*, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health with a Focus on Public Health Work, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health with a Focus on the Individual II, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health Science and Research Methods II*¹⁾, 7.5 credits
 - Tobacco Prevention in Theory and Practice, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health with a Focus on Adolescents and Young Adults, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health with a Focus on Elderly People*, 7.5 credits
 - Oral Health – Clinical Studies II, 7.5 credits (in the course Oral Health II and Odontology IV clinical studies 15 credits)*
 - Oral Health – Clinical Studies III, 7.5 credits
- Oral Health, 91-120 ECTS credits:
 - Oral health: Degree Project¹⁾, 15 credits
 - Leadership and Organization, 7.5 credits
- Odontology, 1-30 ECTS credits:
 - Odontology I*, 7.5 credits
 - Odontology II – Theory and Clinical Studies*, 15 credits
 - General Dental Care*, 7.5 credits
 - Clinical Studies in Odontology I, 7.5 credits
- Odontology, 31-60 ECTS credits:
 - Odontology III – Theory*, 7.5 credits
 - Odontology III – Clinical Studies*, 7.5 credits
 - Odontology IV – Theory*, 7.5 credits
 - Odontology IV – Clinical Studies, 7.5 credits (in the course Oral Health II and Odontology IV clinical studies 15 credits)*

Courses marked with * are obligatory for a professional degree.

¹⁾ including a scientific project.

Examination

Examination forms are specified in each syllabus.

Degree Awarded

The professional degree awarded is:

Higher Education Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

The general degree awarded upon the completion of 180 credits is:

Bachelor of Social Science. Major: Oral Health.

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad.

The recognition of previous education as credit for part of a course is subject to

approval by the examiner. The recognition of previous education as credit for an entire course is subject to approval by the Office for Student Services.

Additional Information

Duration

The duration of the study programme is indicated by the number of credits it yields as a full-time study programme; 40 weeks is equivalent to 60 credits. (Chapter 6, §2 of The Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100).

Local Regulations

Local regulations at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Attendance

Attendance is obligatory for some course components – see course syllabuses for further details. Course teachers can formulate additional attendance requirements.

Re-sit Examinations

Students who have failed a regular examination are entitled to a limited number of re-sit examination opportunities as outlined in the local regulations. Students who have failed the trainee period assessment are entitled to a re-assessment the next time the course is running. The number of re-sit examinations and re-assessments are limited and are recorded in each syllabus.

Study Intermission

Students wishing to take an intermission (leave of absence) from study for the upcoming year/semester should complete a written application for intermission.

Moving Up

In order to move up to the next level, students must meet any additional admission requirements specified in the course syllabus.

In order to be admitted onto any course where students will come into contact with patients, a pass grade on all relevant methodology components in previous courses is required. For further details, see each respective course syllabus.

Student Expulsion Procedures

As stipulated in the Higher Education Act Ch. 2, sect. 6, SFS 1992: 1434, and Regulations of Student Expulsion from Higher Education SFS 1987: 915, a student who suffers from mental disorder, abuses alcohol or drugs, or has been guilty of a serious offence endangering others or valuable property can be expelled until further notice. In such a case, the Rector files a complaint to the Expulsion Board of Higher Education, which investigates the matter and makes a decision. A decision of expulsion shall always entail that the student must discontinue the education until further notice. The Expulsion Board of Higher Education is responsible for all Swedish higher education institutions.

Appendix: Overview of programme structure.

.

Overview of programme structure – Study Programme in Dental Hygiene 180 credits

Clinical courses: 28 full-time study weeks, of which 11 are clinical studies in public and/or private dental clinics. Clinical studies are marked and can consist of clinical studies in public and/or private dental clinics (VFU), clinical work at the university (UK), case studies, theoretical studies etc.

Term 1		Term 2		
Theory	Theory	Theory + UK	VFU, half-time/ Theory, half-time	UK, half-time/ Theory, half-time
Health/Oral Health an introduction 7,5 credits*	Odontology I - Theory 7,5 credits*	Odontology II – Theory and Clinical Studies 15 credits*	General Dental Care 7,5 credits (half-time)*	Oral Health – Clinical Studies I 7,5 credits (half-time)*
			Oral health with a Focus on the Individual I 7,5 credits (half-time)*	Oral Health Science and Research Methods I 7,5 credits (half-time)*

Term 3		Term 4		
Theory	Theory+ UK ,halftime	UK, half-time/ Theory, half-time	Theory	
Oral Health with a Focus on Public Health Work 7,5 credits	Odontology III - Theory 7,5 credits*	Odontology III – Clinical Studies 7,5 credits (half-time)*	Oral Health Science and Research Methods II 7,5 credits (half-time)*	Odontology IV - Theory 7,5 credits*
Oral health with a Focus on the Individual II 7,5 credits	Oral Health with a Focus on Children 7,5 credits*			Tobacco Prevention in Theory and Practice 7,5 credits

Term 5		Term 6	
UK + VFU, ¼-time/ Theory ¾-time		Theory	VFU, half-time/ Theory, half-time
Oral Health II and Odontology IV – Clinical Studies 15 credits (3/4-time and half time)*		Oral Health with a Focus on Elderly People 7,5 credits (half-time)*	Oral Health – Clinical Studies III 7,5 credits (half-time)*
	Oral Health with a Focus on Adolescents and Young Adults 7,5 credits (3/4-time)	Oral Health: Degree Project 15 credits (3/4-time and half time)	Leadership and Organization (C) 7,5 credits (half-time)

*obligatory courses for a professional degree (120 credits)