

# Higher Diploma in Dental Hygiene

## (2-year Full-time)

### I. Introduction

According to a survey from China, there are eight billion people on the Mainland suffering from a certain degree of periodontal diseases. Although the situation in Hong Kong is not so severe, there are still a large number of HK people with gum diseases. Simply educating the public about the proper way to clean teeth cannot completely eradicate this problem, professional help from a well-trained dental hygienist may be required in many cases. In response to the demands of the community, the Hospital together with HKU SPACE Community College offers a 2-year Higher Diploma programme in Dental Hygiene with the support of the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU since 2002. The Hospital is the only teaching institute in Hong Kong to provide dental hygienist training.

### II. Course Aims

This course aims to provide the relevant professional training and knowledge needed to prepare the Student Dental Hygienists for a career in dental hygiene. Upon successful completion, students are qualified to serve as members of a dental team, and are capable of controlling and preventing periodontal diseases and dental caries.

### III. Course Structure

The course is on a two-year full-time basis and its teaching activities will be conducted throughout the calendar years, including the summer period. It consists of two essential components: Generic Skills subjects (24 credits) and Dental Hygiene specialism (42 credits).

Generic Skills subjects include Mathematics and Statistics for Daily Life Applications, Information Technology Fundamentals, Introduction to Academic English, English for Academic Purposes I, English for Healthcare Professionals, Practical Chinese, and Intra- and Inter-personal Competencies.

### IV. Dental Hygiene Specialism

The Dental Hygiene specialism consists of four parts:

#### (1) Problem-based Learning (PBL)

The PBL curriculum offers an integrated, problem-based curriculum with emphasis on student-centered learning, which is socially and culturally relevant and community-oriented. It is well adopted after its successful introduction to the medical and dental curriculum at HKU. The PBL curriculum includes the following topics:

- Cariology
- Children's Dentistry and Orthodontics
- Dental Anatomy
- Dental Materials
- Dental Radiography and Radiology
- Ethics and Professionalism
- General Anatomy and Physiology
- General Histology
- General Pathology
- Oral Pathology
- Periodontology
- Pharmacology
- Preventive Dentistry
- Behavioural Science
- Diet and Nutrition
- Fluorides and Fissure Sealant
- Oral Health Education
- Mechanical Plaque Control



- Microbiology and Infection Control
- Oral Anatomy and Physiology
- Oral Histo-embryology
- Public Health
- Dental Hygiene Care for Special Needs Patients

(2) **Clinical Training**

- Clinical Sessions
- Plaque Awareness Programme Education
- Dental Clinic Visits
- Attachment to Government Oral Health Education Unit
- Phantom Head Practice
- Clinical Report Writing
- Patient Clinical Assessment
- Formulation of Treatment Plan
- Application of Treatment Plan on Patient

(3) **Dental Health Promotion**

- A display board prepared in pairs or groups
- A Dental Health Education Project for a specific group

(4) **Oral Radiography**

- Properties and Production of X-rays
- Principles of Intra-Oral Radiographic Technique
- Radiation Hazards and Safety Measures for Protection of the Patient & Operator
- Proper Record Keeping and Processing Periapical and Bite Wing Radiographs
- Diagnosis of Intra-Oral and Panoramic Radiographic Images

**V. Clinical Placement**

All clinical training sessions will be held at the Hospital. The clinical placement may be arranged for students to visit or practise at either government or private dental clinics other than the Hospital.

**VI. Opportunities for Further Study**

Graduates can apply for further degree studies in Biological Sciences, Nursing, Dentistry, Medicine or related subjects offered by local universities through the Non-JUPAS route.

**VII. Professional Recognition**

Graduates are eligible to apply to the Dental Council of Hong Kong for enrolment as “Dental Hygienists” and are qualified to practise dental hygiene in Hong Kong.



## **VIII. Admission Requirements**

- (1) HKDSEE Level 2 or above in five (5) subjects <sup>Note 1</sup> including Chinese Language, English Language and Biology or Level 3 or above in Combined Science (Biology), or equivalent; ***or***
- (2) HKCEE Grade E/ Level 2 or above in five (5) subjects <sup>Note 1</sup> including Chinese Language, English Language <sup>Notes 2</sup> and Biology/Human Biology, or equivalent; **AND**  
Pass in one (1) Advanced Level subject or two (2) Advanced Supplementary subjects in the HKALE, or equivalent; ***or***
- (3) Recognised Pre-Associate Degree/ Certificate in General Studies/ Diploma in Foundation Studies or other equivalent Foundation Programme qualifications; ***or***
- (4) Special consideration may be given to applicants with only five (5) subjects attaining Level 2/ Grade E or above in the HKDSEE/ HKCEE with work experience in dental clinics and/or are holders of a Certificate/ Diploma in Dental Surgery Assisting or have an equivalent qualification; ***or***
- (5) Aged 21 or above at the start of the commencing academic year and have relevant work experience;

***and*** be proficient in both Cantonese and English (spoken and written).

*Note 1: Applicants are allowed to use not more than two Applied Learning (ApL) subjects in the application. The recognition of the ApL subjects is as follows:*

- “Attained with distinction” is deemed equivalent to Level 3 in the HKDSE Examination, and
- “Attained” is deemed equivalent to Level 2 in the HKDSE Examination.

*Note 2: For English Language (Syllabus A) in pre-2007 HKCEE, only Grade C or above will be considered.*

## **IX. Commencement Date**

2 September 2019 (tentative)

## **X. Tuition Fee**

HK\$68,000 per annum (by two equal instalments)

*(Tuition fees are subject to annual revision; and non-refundable unless the course is cancelled.)*

## **XI. Financial Assistance**

Students may apply for the Government’s “Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-Secondary Students” or “Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-Secondary Students” for grants/loans.

## **XII. Enquiries**

HKU SPACE Community College: 3416 6338

Tutor in Dental Hygiene, HKU: 2859 0299