

□ GMAX 60-Week RDH Program (80-Credit Curriculum)

Textbook: *Darby & Walsh Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice* by Michelle Pieren

Program Format: 5 Terms (12 weeks each) + 6-week Capstone (2 years total)

▣ Term 1: Foundations of Dental Hygiene (Weeks 1–12) – 16 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4	Body systems, cellular processes, body organization
Introduction to Dental Hygiene	3	History, ethics, infection control, intro to instrumentation
Dental Radiology	3	Radiation safety, techniques, interpretation
Preclinical Dental Hygiene I	4	Ergonomics, mirror use, fulcrum, instrumentation practice
Communication for Health Professionals	2	Patient interaction, motivational interviewing, cultural sensitivity

▣ Term 2: Head, Neck & Clinical Preparation (Weeks 13–24) – 16 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4	Nervous, cardiovascular, endocrine, and lymphatic systems
Head & Neck Anatomy	3	Cranial nerves, muscles, vascular structures, oral cavity
Preclinical Dental Hygiene II	4	Expanded instrumentation, periodontal probing, charting
Oral Histology & Embryology	3	Tissue formation, tooth development, eruption patterns
Dental Hygiene Theory I	2	Evidence-based care, health promotion, patient-centered planning

▣ Term 3: Entry into Patient Care (Weeks 25–36) – 16 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Clinical Dental Hygiene I	6	Patient care: assessments, scaling, radiographs, documentation
Periodontology I	3	Periodontal structures, disease etiology, risk factors
Nutrition in Dentistry	2	Macronutrients, diet analysis, oral-systemic nutrition links

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	3	Drug classifications, local anesthesia agents, medical histories
Community Oral Health I	2	Intro to public health, disease prevention, program basics

Term 4: Advanced Concepts (Weeks 37–48) – 16 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Clinical Dental Hygiene II	6	Complex cases, pain management, periodontal therapy
Periodontology II	3	Disease staging, non-surgical therapies, maintenance
Oral Pathology	3	Soft/hard tissue pathology, differential diagnosis
Pain Management (Local Anesthesia + Nitrous Oxide)	2	Injections, complications, administration
Community Oral Health II	2	Community project, needs assessment, implementation strategies

Term 5: Integration & Special Populations (Weeks 49–60) – 12 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Clinical Dental Hygiene III	6	Full patient care, time management, clinical competence
Dental Materials	3	Properties, handling, manipulation of clinical materials
Dental Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Practice Management	3	Legal responsibility, state practice acts, records, teamwork

Capstone + Board Review (Weeks 61–66) – 4 credits

Course	Credits	Weekly Focus
Case-Based Seminar	2	Presentations, care planning, peer feedback
NBDHE Board Review & Mock Exams	2	Test-taking strategies, comprehensive review, practice boards

Program Highlights

- **Clinical Exposure** starts in Week 25 and continues until completion
- **National Board (NBDHE) & Local Anesthesia Prep** built into the final terms
- Emphasis on **evidence-based care, ethics, cultural sensitivity, and public health**
- Core themes from *Darby & Walsh* integrated throughout: infection control, health promotion, interprofessional care, and practice management