

DENTAL HYGIENE

ASSOCIATE/BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

A major map is an active guide that helps students make intentional decisions throughout college. Students identify their stage (first, second, third, or final year) and focus on recommended actions for that period. Each semester, they select key academic, career, and involvement activities, track their progress, and discuss it with advisors or faculty. Over time, the map helps them stay on track, adjust goals as needed, and graduate with a degree and career-ready experience.

THE WHO...

- Critical Thinking
- Informed Major Selection
- Post-graduation Readiness
- Applied Problem Solving
- Leadership Skills
- Teamwork

THE WHY...

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

THE WHAT...

- Become a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)
Employed in:
 - Clinical Practice
 - Public Health
 - Education
 - Sales
 - Marketing
 - Research

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"My time in the West Liberty University Sarah Whitaker Glass Dental Hygiene School was rewarding and fundamental to my dental hygiene career. It gave me relationships, opportunities, and skills to build a successful and strong dental hygiene career. It was such an uplifting experience due to the caring and phenomenal support of professors and instructors!"

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured, student-centered approach that ensures every student graduates with not only a degree, but also meaningful experiences, career-ready skills, and a clear post-graduation plan.

TOP SKILLS

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

ASPIRE - Experiential Major Map

	FIRST AND SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Complete prerequisite (and general studies courses for B.S. students) - Earn a C or higher in prerequisites and maintain a 3.0 GPA - Submit official transcripts from all colleges attended - Meet regularly with your academic advisor - Apply to the Dental Hygiene Program by January 15 before your intended start date	- First year in the dental hygiene program - Earn a C or higher in all dental hygiene courses to move forward to the next semester - Seek tutoring services if needed	- Complete major coursework with a C or higher - Prepare to complete board examinations required for licensure - HESI practice exam - National Board Dental Hygiene Exam - ADEX Clinical Exam - ADEX OSCE Exam - ADEX Local Anesthesia Exam	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Make an appointment with your academic advisor - Visit faculty during office hours - Complete prerequisite courses and maintain admissions standards - Apply for the DH Program when eligible
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Strengths exploration and assessment - Major and career exploration workshops - Reflection assignments on personal and professional mission/goals	- Validate career choice by learning new dental hygiene skills - Complete self-assessments following each patient care experience	- Complete self-assessments following each patient care experience - Complete observation hours in a variety of dental settings - Explore career options and initiate job search	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Shadow a dental hygienist to explore the profession firsthand. - Choose the degree that fits your career goals: - Associate Degree: Clinical practice - Bachelor of Science: Clinical practice, public health, education, sales, marketing, and other careers requiring a bachelor's degree	- Learn instrumentation skills needed to begin working as a student dental hygienist in the dental hygiene clinic - All experiential learning is completed in the dental hygiene clinic on campus	- Complete all clinical requirements in the Dental Hygiene Clinic - Complete enrichment experiences in schools and long-term care facilities - Apply for full-time employment and participate in interviews - Begin the state dental hygiene licensure application process	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Join a student organization or campus club - Attend campus events to build connections - Get involved in Topper Fest and leadership programs - Explore wellness, counseling, and student support services - Strengthen your study and time management skills	- Join SADHA (Student American Dental Hygienists' Association) - Build relationships with cohort of students	- Mentor younger students - Build your professional network with alumni and professionals - Serve on student advisory boards or committees - Attend financial literacy and life skills workshops - Create a plan for work-life balance after graduation	