



UNIVERSITY OF L'AQUILA



Department of Health, Life and Environmental  
Sciences

# **Profile of**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Cycle Degree in**

## **DENTAL HYGIENE**

***Laurea in***

***IGIENE DENTALE***

**DEGREE PROFILE OF**  
**Laurea in IGIENE DENTALE**  
**(First Cycle Degree in DENTAL HYGIENE)**

TYPE OF DEGREE & LENGTH	Single Degree (180 ECTS-credits), 3 years
INSTITUTION(S)	Università degli Studi dell'Aquila - <i>University of L'Aquila</i> , ITALY
ACCREDITATION ORGANISATION(S)	Italian Ministry of Education and Research National Register "A.I.D.I. (ASSOCIAZIONE IGIENISTI DENTALI ITALIANI <a href="http://www.aiditalia.it">www.aiditalia.it</a> )"
PERIOD OF REFERENCE	Programme validated for 3 years for cohorts starting in October 2012
CYCLE /LEVEL	QF for EHEA: First Cycle; EQF level: 6; NQF for Italy: Laurea

<b>A</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<p>Graduates of <i>Dental Hygiene</i> bachelor degree are Technical Health Professionals who practice activities relating to the prevention and treatment of oral- dental disease with enhanced technological modalities of practice, research, communication, educational leadership, management and dental hygiene knowledge. The three-year integrated program fulfills the provisions of art. 6, item 3 of Italian <i>Law no. 502 of 30/12/1992</i> and amendments introduced by art. 3 of <i>Italian Law no. 251 of 10/08/2000</i>. Dental Hygienists are registered health care professionals who synthesize knowledge from all branches of learning to provide preventative, educational, collaborative, and therapeutic dental hygiene care for individuals and groups in a variety of settings. The degree enables them to be enrolled in the National Register "A.I.D.I. (ASSOCIAZIONE IGIENISTI DENTALI ITALIANI <a href="http://www.aiditalia.it">www.aiditalia.it</a>)".</p>

<b>B</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
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2	FURTHER STUDIES	The Bachelor Degree in <i>Dental Hygiene</i> normally gives direct access to the corresponding Second Cycle degree program. It also gives access to some other Second Cycle degree programs in Health care professionals with further specialization, as well as in leadership and management specialization (in which case extra work may be necessary for admission) and other professionalizing courses.
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D	EDUCATION STYLE	
1	LEARNING & TEACHING APPROACHES	Lectures, group-work, individual study and autonomous learning, interprofessional learning, self directed study, work placement.
2	ASSESSMENT METHODS	Assessment is normally made by means of an oral or written examination. The final exam consists in the preparation and dissertation of a written text and in a practical exam aimed at demonstrating that the candidate has acquired the essential professional skills and competences related to the professional profile. Degree holders obtain the credentials for the enrollment on the National Register of A.I.D.I. (ASSOCIAZIONE IGIENISTI DENTALI ITALIANI <a href="http://www.aiditalia.it">www.aiditalia.it</a> ).

E	PROGRAMME COMPETENCES	
1	GENERIC	<p>The degree program meets the competences and quality assurance procedures required by the National Register of A.I.D.I. (ASSOCIAZIONE IGIENISTI DENTALI ITALIANI <a href="http://www.aiditalia.it">www.aiditalia.it</a>) and by the National Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (AVA) requirements for degree courses at first level. This includes the Generic Competences expected for the first cycle graduated, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Knowledge, Analysis and synthesis:</b> Knowledge and understanding of the subject area, understanding of the profession and ability to be critical and self-critical; capacity to support their practice decisions with concepts and theories from the fundamentals of human pathology and main oral diseases, demonstrating to understand the demographic issues, prevention and treatment of oral hygiene diseases;</li> <li>— <b>Flexible mind:</b> Ability to make reasoned decisions and to interact with others in a constructive manner, even when dealing with difficult issues; ability to apply the knowledge of the main features of dental materials which they may come into contact with in their role as hygienist;</li> <li>— <b>Team-working:</b> Ability to work in a team and to interact constructively with others regardless of background and culture and respecting diversity;</li> <li>— <b>Communication skills:</b> Ability to develop an effective communication style to interact with patients, families, and the interdisciplinary health team</li> <li>— <b>Field culture:</b> Ability to apply knowledge in practical situations and to act on the basis of ethical reasoning</li> <li>— <b>Learning ability:</b> Capacity to learn and stay up-to-date with learning</li> <li>— <b>Problem solving:</b> Ability to identify, pose and resolve problems</li> <li>— <b>Evaluation:</b> Ability to plan and manage time and to evaluate and maintain the quality of work produced.</li> </ul>
2	SUBJECT SPECIFIC	<p>The Program meets all the Specific Competences as established and agreed in collaboration with the field stakeholders, clustered within the key overarching competences summarized below:</p> <p><b>Knowledge of :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fundamentals of human pathology and main oral diseases;</li> <li>- drugs that are directly and indirectly correlated to dental hygiene with clear awareness of the main consequences on their practice;</li> <li>- main features of dental materials which they may come into contact with in their role as hygienist;</li> <li>- national laws governing the dental hygiene profession in Italy;</li> </ul> <p><b>Comprehension/understanding.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Capacity to understand the main correlations and therapeutic, medical and surgical procedures that are complementary to the dental hygienist profession, as well as the basic command of dental care and assistance following pedagogical, psychological, sociological and ethical principles;</li> <li>- Capacity to understand the demographic issues, prevention and treatment of oral hygiene diseases;</li> <li>- ability to independently combine dental hygienists skills with understanding of the impact in the practice of dental hygiene of drug treatments of systemic disease;</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Analysis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to analyze, assess and evaluate problems with patients, families and communities health;</li> </ul> <p><b>Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to practice a full range of oral hygiene services as part of global patient care without producing any additional risks for the patient or the environment;</li> <li>- Ability to plan joint interventions aiming to reduce oral disease correlated to lifestyles and in particular dental plaque;</li> <li>- Ability to monitor cross-infections to prevent physical, chemical and microbiological contamination within professional practice;</li> <li>- capacity to perform and exhibit professional behavior in all activities;</li> </ul> <p><b>Synthesis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity to understand and apply stress and pain control techniques to professional dental hygiene practices within the authorized limits of the dental hygienist;</li> <li>- Capacity to provide reasons for, analyze, interpret and document the chosen actions and solutions on the basis of reasoning, decision-making, documentation and evaluation processes in order to obtain the informed consent of the patients for treatment;</li> </ul> <p><b>Creativity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to plan, design and implement dental hygiene programs;</li> <li>- Ability to consult databases to gather scientific documentation and critically analyze scientific literature, applying the results of the research to the treatment in a reliable manner;</li> <li>- Ability to correctly interpret the law governing the dental hygiene profession in other countries to which they could go, and provide care in compliance with the ethical and medical-legal standards applied there;</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to assess the effectiveness of their work and results achieved;</li> <li>- ability to recognize their own limits in assisting patients and recognize the need to direct patients to other medical figures for other medical or dental treatment;</li> </ul> <p><b>Problem managing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability to coordinate, administer and manage specific services with a focus on health promotion, prevention and care;</li> <li>- ability to assume leadership roles within the scope of professional practice;</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability to communicate both verbally and in writing with patients, relatives, colleagues and other professional groups, in particular dentists, in multidisciplinary and multiprofessional collaboration;</li> <li>- ability to read and understand scientific texts and journals in English language.</li> </ul>
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F	COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>A newly graduated Bachelor of <b>Dental Hygiene</b> should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- synthesize knowledge from all branches of learning to provide preventative, educational, collaborative, and therapeutic dental hygiene care for individuals and groups in a variety of settings.</li> <li>- develop a desire and ability to provide dental hygiene care applying the highest moral, ethical and legal principals including those outlined by A.I.D.I.</li> <li>- perform the role of health promoter/educator in the society;</li> <li>- develop and maintain professional competence founded in evidence based decision-making and continued education while promoting personal and professional growth;</li> <li>- promote client and community satisfaction with the quality of the dental hygiene education and care process provided by the program.</li> <li>- apply a professional code of Ethics in all endeavors and adhere to national laws, recommendations, regulations, and safety practices in the provision of dental hygiene care;</li> <li>- provide dental hygiene care to promote patient/client health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidence-based practice;</li> <li>- assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions and care based on accepted scientific theories and research as well as the accepted standard of care;</li> <li>- continuously perform self-assessment for lifelong learning and professional growth;</li> <li>- provide quality assurance mechanisms for health services;</li> <li>- communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations both orally and in writing;</li> <li>- provide accurate, consistent, and complete documentation for assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene services;</li> <li>- provide care to all patients using an individualized approach that is humane, empathetic, and caring;</li> <li>- provide planned educational services using appropriate interpersonal communication skills and educational strategies to promote optimal oral health;</li> <li>- initiate and assume responsibility for health promotion, health education, and disease prevention activities for diverse</li> </ul>

	<p>populations;</p> <p>-systematically collect, analyze, and record data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of a variety of patients/clients using methods consistent with medico-legal principles;</p> <p>-use critical decision-making skills to reach conclusions about the patients' dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data;</p> <p>-collaborate with the patient and/or other health professionals to formulate a comprehensive dental hygiene care plan that is patient-centered and based on current scientific evidence;</p> <p>-provide specialized treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health;</p> <p>-evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented clinical, preventive, and educational services and modify as needed.</p>
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<b>Comprehensive Scheme of the First Cycle Degree in DENTAL HYGIENE</b>				
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>Credits (ECTS)</b>	<b>Semester</b>
<b>I</b>	D4282	Scientific Methodology and Informatics	8	1
	D1812	Biomedical Sciences	12	1
	D4279	Professional Organization	9	1
	D1620	General Pathology and Microbiology	6	2
	D4306	Clinical Dentistry	6	2
	D3638	<i>Work Placement I</i>	16	2
	D4079	<i>Free choice optional courses</i>	6	1 and/or 2
	D4108	<i>Other Courses / Activities:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Other activities (6 ECTS)</i></li> <li>o <i>English (3 ECTS)</i></li> <li>o <i>Specific professional Labs (3 ECTS)</i></li> </ul>	12	1 and/or 2
<b>II</b>	D4285	Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Pathological Anatomy	9	1
	D2078	Preventive Dentistry and Cranio-Mandibular Dysfunctions	9	1
	D2198	General and Applied Hygiene	3	2
	D2520	Prostheses and Implantology	6	2
	D3640	<i>Work Placement II</i>	24	2
<b>III</b>	D4513	Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery	4	1
	D4297	Periodontology	3	1
	D2552	Principles of Health Organization and Forensic Medicine implications	12	1
	D2564	Professional Practice I	3	2
	D2574	Professional Practice II	3	2
	D3642	<i>Work Placement III</i>	20	2
	D2054	<i>Thesis</i>	6	2