UNDERGRADUATE
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS
B.S., A.S.
IN DENTAL HYGIENE
Welcome to the University of New Haven’s dental hygiene programs. Our faculty and staff are committed to working with each student to provide a first-class learning experience. Expect to be a key player at UNH. Our programs and majors include not only classroom instruction but also clinical and lab research, working with faculty in the field, studying abroad, internships, and course projects that focus on real world problems and issues.

We have students going overseas to study dental hygiene in Romania and Honduras. Students in other disciplines are traveling to Russia and the Persian Gulf for studies. Here at home, our dentistry hygiene students are preparing for real world practice by developing their skills on Cherokee reservations and at Yale-New Haven Hospital’s Department of Dentistry. The College of Arts and Sciences is uniquely positioned to help prepare you for the future—a future that is changing at a rapid pace. In fact, many of the future career opportunities available to today’s college students have yet to be created. Our philosophy in UNH’s College of Arts and Sciences is to prepare you as broadly as possible for the challenges—whether local or global—facing our society in the decades ahead.

In addition to the depth of study within your chosen major, you will receive an unparalleled education across many disciplines in the sciences, arts, and humanities. Our lives are irreversibly transformed by what we learn and trained to see, to appreciate the elegance of a mathematical concept, the beauty of a work of art, the physics underlying a chemical reaction, or the delicate balance of our ecosystem. It’s a thrilling voyage of discovery.

You will take that voyage of discovery. I hope you will come and experience all the excitement that goes with the quest, both in your major disciplines and in all the other teaching subjects that await you.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Alvarez, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

DEAN’S MESSAGE

Welcome

PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

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T he dental hygiene programs at the University of New Haven are designed to open doors. These doors open on a full spectrum of career options as well as further study in the field. We accomplish this with classes that fulfillboth professional and (more) education requirements with introductory and advanced-level dental hygiene courses. Gradsutes of the bachelor’s degree programs will be prepared not only to seek employment in private dental offices but also to pursue employment in a variety of other health care settings. Bachelor of science degree students have the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue education at the graduate level.

Both of our programs have one thing in common: They’re rigorous. But that rigor will make you a top-notch clinician in the field and highly attractive to employers.

Sandra D’Amato-Palumbo, RDH, MPS

Program Director, Dental Hygiene Program

"...our programs have one thing in common: They’re rigorous. But that rigor will make you a top-notch clinician in the field and highly attractive to employers."
We hear it time and again: Graduates of our dental hygiene programs who have forged successful careers in the field say their road to success began with the instructors here. We take great pride in both our students and our faculty, and so we have assembled what, we believe, is the cream of dental hygiene instructors. You will learn from professors who:

▸ Are innovative. Our instructors are known for pioneering new techniques in teaching and fostering clinical skill development.

▸ Have practiced extensively as dental hygienists and possess expertise in their chosen specialty fields.

▸ Bring real-world knowledge into the classroom, keeping their students abreast of the latest technology and current trends in treatment.

▸ Share what no textbook can fully convey — what clinical practice is actually like on a day-to-day basis. Students enter the field with realistic expectations and a sense of professionalism from the first day on the job.

Well respected outside of the University, our faculty members have lectured nationally at the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Association, and the Dental Hygiene National Honor society and are published authors in the country’s top professional journals.

Finally, our instructors take their students’ welfare and future seriously to heart — which is why they devote an extraordinary amount of time advising, mentoring, and encouraging their students, both inside and outside of the classroom. The 5-to-1 ratio of students to faculty is what makes that extra attention something you can count on.

The UNH Dental Center provides an ideal environment for learning. Constructed in 1993, the Center employs the latest technological advances in dental hygiene standards and infection control and houses a lecture room and state-of-the-art facilities for practice, including:

▸ A preventive dental clinic, housing nineteen patient treatment stations with chair-side computers

▸ Radiology and dental materials laboratories

▸ A cutting-edge instrument transfer and central sterilization area

▸ Multimedia computers, complete with an assortment of instructional programs for help in your studies

Not all of our students’ time is spent in the Center, however. Collaboration with statewide public and private institutions gives you many opportunities to get out into the world and work with other healthcare professionals at clinical sites off the UNH campus.

You’ll also gain experience working in public school systems, homeless shelters, group homes, elderly housing, and community-based clinics.

It’s all part of our plan — to give you many, many chances to apply what you learn in class to real-life situations, acquiring professional-grade practice long before you become a professional.
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Although Benjamin Franklin wasn’t referring to the practice of dental hygiene when he coined the saying in 1735, it’s a perfect description of the profession.

Actually, it wasn’t until the early 20th century that the prevention of oral disease and the suffering it causes became a profession in its own right. By helping to prevent cavities and gum disease, dental hygienists avert more than toothaches and extractions, though. Poor oral health can lead to serious health problems such as heart disease and diabetes. Also, the dental hygienist’s keen eye can spot changes that may indicate oral cancer.

If you wish to become a professional in this rewarding field, you can do no better than to study at the University of New Haven. Our dental hygiene programs are some of the finest in the country, and our facilities are first-rate. The programs are rigorous, but this is to your ultimate benefit. You will emerge superbly educated and experienced, ready to take the necessary board exams so that you can pursue your calling.

Choose the 3-year or 4-year program:

- **The three-year associate’s degree program.** One of the few programs of its kind in the U.S., ours prepares you for all necessary board exams and then employment in a dental office.
- **The four-year bachelor’s program.** This program gives you more medical knowledge and teaches you how to conduct research. Enroll in this program from the start, or earn your associate’s degree and decide later if you want to complete the bachelor’s. Yours one, two, and three, of each program are identical.
- **The dental hygiene degree completion program.** This is the program that leads to the B.S. with one more year of study. We designed the program to include practicing dental hygienists who have an associate’s degree. You can transfer your credits and use your academic and work experience as the basis for completing coursework that leads to the bachelor’s degree.

For detailed admission information, please go to www.newhaven.edu/dental and click on “Prospective Students.”

### B.S., A.S. in Dental Hygiene

### A.S. Degree in Dental Hygiene

Courses include the University core requirements plus the following:

**FRESHMAN YEAR SEMESTER ONE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
<td>Composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 1109</td>
<td>Intro to AQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>or 1127</td>
<td>Forensics</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 1112</td>
<td>Gen &amp; Human Biol I w/lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 1105</td>
<td>Intro Clinical Chem w/lab</td>
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**FRESHMAN YEAR SEMESTER TWO**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
<td>Comp &amp; Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI 1107</td>
<td>Comps &amp; their Appl</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 1111</td>
<td>Intro to Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 2201</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 3133</td>
<td>Histology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 3110</td>
<td>Intro Dental Hyg I (if reqd)</td>
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**SOPHOMORE YEAR (1ST YEAR CLINICAL)**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2220</td>
<td>Dental Hyg Concepts I w/lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 2214</td>
<td>Oral Facial Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2250</td>
<td>Intro to Dent Sand</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 3301</td>
<td>Microbiology w/lab</td>
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<td>ENGL 2260 or COMM 1100</td>
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**SOPHOMORE YEAR (1ST YEAR CLINICAL)**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 2240</td>
<td>Dental Hyg Concepts II w/lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 3227</td>
<td>Periodontology</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 3210</td>
<td>Hist &amp; Prog II w/lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>DET 2215</td>
<td>Principles of Nutrition</td>
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**SENIOR YEAR (2ND YEAR CLINICAL)**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 3335</td>
<td>Comp Concepts I w/lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 3242</td>
<td>Dental Materials w/lab</td>
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**SENIOR YEAR (2ND YEAR CLINICAL)**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 3332</td>
<td>Pharmacology &amp; Pain Mgt</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 3325</td>
<td>General &amp; Oral Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHYG 3358</td>
<td>Dental Hyg Concepts III w/lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 3380</td>
<td>Local Anesth &amp; Pain Mgt</td>
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**SENIOR YEAR (2ND YEAR CLINICAL)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 4455</td>
<td>DM Public Health w/lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHYG 4460</td>
<td>Adv Dental Hyg Concepts I w/lab</td>
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**MINIMUM TOTAL CREDITS: 126 – 128**

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“I’m excited to report that I just passed my national boards! I want to thank all of my professors in the dental hygiene program for their support, encouragement, and the faith they showed in me. Even when I wanted to give up they always gave me the boost I needed to keep going! I’m extremely proud to be a UNH alum and will always strive, through my hard work and ethics, to be a great representative of this outstanding school.” – Jessica Reyes (A.S. ’13, candidate for the B.S. ’14)
MARK KACERIK, RDH, M.S.

How long have you taught at the University of New Haven, and which courses do you teach?
I have been teaching at the University of New Haven for the past three years. I teach the following courses:
- DHYG 2220 Dental Hygiene Concepts I
- DHYG 2221 Dental Hygiene Concepts I Lab
- DHYG 2240 Dental Hygiene Concepts II
- DHYG 2241 Dental Hygiene Concepts II Lab
- DHYG 3330 Dental Hygiene Concepts III
- DHYG 3331 Dental Hygiene Concepts III Lab

What advice would you give to prospective students and their parents?
As an advisor and mentor, it is my role to use my knowledge and experience for the benefit of my students. Because I have a vested interest in their professional and academic success, I serve as my students’ advocate, role model, and trusted guide.

What are some fun facts about you?
As an advisor and mentor, it is my role to use my knowledge and experience for the benefit of my students. Because I have a vested interest in their professional and academic success, I serve as my students’ advocate, role model, and trusted guide.

What advice would you give to prospective students and their parents?
I began practicing as a dental hygienist at the age of 19. My wife and sister are also dental hygienists. In my spare time, I like to garden and raise chickens.

FACULTY PROFILE

RENEE GARCIA-PRAJER, RDH, M.S.

How long have you taught at the University of New Haven, and which courses do you teach?
I joined the UNH dental hygiene faculty in 2000. I’ve taught freshman- through senior-level courses. Currently, I teach:
- DHYG 2214 Oral Radiology
- DHYG 2215 Oral Radiology Lab
- DHYG 3351 Dental Hygiene Concepts IV Clinical
- DHYG 4461 Advanced Dental Hygiene Concepts V
- DHYG 4462 Dental Hygiene Internship
- DHYG 4468 Dental Hygiene Senior Project

What is your academic passion?
Experiential education is a teaching approach that I am passionate about. It allows students the opportunity to apply their knowledge to real-life scenarios.

How would you describe your role as an advisor and mentor?
As an advisor and mentor, it is my role to use my knowledge and experience for the benefit of my students. Because I have a vested interest in their professional and academic success, I serve as my students’ advocate, role model, and trusted guide.

What are some fun facts about you?
In dental hygiene school I received the award that was presented to a student who marched to the beat of her own drum and could take or leave faculty. One of my hobbies is raising and training puppies to be guide dogs for the vision-impaired.

What advice would you give to prospective students and their parents?
Be realistic in finding the right fit. Students must consider their learning style and personal priorities.

How do the University of New Haven’s dental hygiene programs differ from those of other colleges and universities?
Our program is unique in that it offers Academic Service Learning courses. Academic Service Learning is a form of experiential education in which students participate in scheduled direct service. In a departure from the traditional classroom setting, students get to apply their skills and knowledge by learning and working in the community. Their service meets an actual community need while enhancing what they learn in the classroom.
Why did you choose to attend UNH?
I chose UNH because it was one of the first universities that offered dental hygiene education and that was when I knew that was what I wanted to do. I have always been interested in dentistry and, to me, there is no better feeling than walking around campus and always seeing a familiar face. Also, the amount of research that UNH is involved in is something that I really enjoy.

What is your major?
I am majoring in Dental Hygiene, B.S.

What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?
I am a Peer Tutor for the dental hygiene program through the Center for Learning Resources staff here at UNH. I am also a part of the Hockey team. I have been a part of the Center for Learning Resources staff here at UNH, and I am responsible for being an educator for my residents, a resource for those in need of help, and a policy enforcer to ensure safety in the residence hall. I have been fortunate enough in this position to work with a really awesome faculty, which helps students who have a greater amount of disease and more oral conditions. I do the same thing at the University of Connecticut, and that has been a wonderful experience for me. The University offers students a great sense of community and always being a part of something makes students feel more connected to the University, and that sense of belonging makes for the best overall college experience.

What do you like most about UNH?
I love that the University offers students a great sense of community. Whether it’s being part of a long-standing community in Connecticut, Colorado, and New York are all on the list right now. I have met lifelong friends here. After going through three years of such a focused program, you really become a family. Dental hygiene students at UNH are not just learning how to “scale and polish” but also how to use critical thinking to draw conclusions and develop treatment plans that are tailored to the patient. I also love that the University offers students a great sense of community and always being a part of something makes students feel more connected to the University, and that sense of belonging makes for the best overall college experience. UNH offers a great job at helping students find jobs that are related to their career goals.

What do you want to do after graduation?
I am responsible for being an educator for my residents, a resource for those in need of help, and a policy enforcer to ensure safety in the residence hall. I have been fortunate enough in this position to work with a really awesome faculty, which helps students who have a greater amount of disease and more oral conditions. I do the same thing at the University of Connecticut, and that has been a wonderful experience for me. The University offers students a great sense of community and always being a part of something makes students feel more connected to the University, and that sense of belonging makes for the best overall college experience. UNH offers a great job at helping students find jobs that are related to their career goals.

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What are your plans for the future?
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What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?
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RACHEL SEGERGREN ’15
Major: Dental Hygiene, B.S.
Class: Junior
Hometown: Cheshire, CT

Why did you choose to attend UNH?
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I was initially drawn to the University of New Haven’s dental hygiene program by the high-caliber professors and faculty instructing the student body. The program was new at that time and my class was the first graduating class. The emphasis of the program was to create successful and competent students and the program definitely succeeded in that – I felt that all of my academic and clinical needs were met. Also, the tightly knit campus at UNH provided a unique opportunity for students to interact with their professors and forge strong relationships with them. I especially appreciated the professors’ interests in my career training.

During my final year in the dental hygiene program, I decided that I wanted to further my career by becoming a dentist. The professors and faculty members were very supportive and helped to guide me through the steps necessary to prepare for and apply to dental school. The academic and clinical instruction that I received at UNH gave me a strong foundation, preparing me for the challenges of dental school. The instructors at UNH are outstanding. They really take the time to make sure their students succeed. I had tremendous respect for my instructors while I was a student, but after I received my B.S. and took a position as a dental hygiene clinical instructor for two semesters, I understood how much goes into teaching, and my respect for them soared even higher. I am so grateful that I was able to work alongside them.

I definitely credit my leadership, organizational, and time management skills to participating in some of the activities UNH offers. I now hold the position of Lead Outreach Hygienist at a non-profit called Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc. in Washington, D.C. I definitely credit my leadership, organizational, and time management skills to participating in some of the activities that UNH offers, being President of the Student Chapter of the American Dental Hygiene Association and an active member of the UNH Dance Team were fantastic learning experiences and a lot of fun, too!

My advice for prospective students? Go for your B.S. because you will be able to hold superior positions and, if you like, pursue further study with a master’s program. You can do no better than to start your journey at UNH. The quality of their dental hygiene program is both exceptional and unique. I am proud to say that I obtained my degree from UNH, and I take with me many happy memories from my time there.
Students can gather a wealth of knowledge from books, lectures, and guest speakers, but nothing completes and complements that knowledge like a job. Entering the workforce and assuming responsibilities helps students mature as they develop their on-the-job skills and acumen and apply what they’ve learned in class.

The University of New Haven considers learning through hands-on experience to be a critical component of the education process. We strive to successfully match each student with the most appropriate work environment. It’s also a given that all three parties in the relationship — UNH, the student, and the clinical site — need to devote significant time to make it work. This balancing act, when achieved, results in a quality learning experience that can lead to developing a career-ready professional and employee.

**Clinical Rotation Sites for the B.S. Program Include:**
- A U.S. military dental clinic
- School-based dental clinic, Driggs Elementary School
- VA Connecticut Healthcare System
- StayWell Community Health Center
- Yale-New Haven Hospital, Department of Dentistry
- A Federal Correctional Institution

**Internships in the B.S. Program Have Included:**
- Long-term health care facilities, public health dental hygiene intern
- Government agencies
- Head Start Programs, educator intern
- UNH Dental Center, student clinical instructor intern
- School-based dental clinics, clinician intern
- Researcher, industry, or dental school intern
- Hospitals, Department of dentistry, clinician intern
- Connecticut State Dental Hygienists’ Association, administrative intern

**Study Away/Study Abroad:**
- Cherokee and Navajo reservations in North Carolina and Arizona
- Locations in Romania, Honduras, and Mexico

**Did You Know:**
- 76% of employers indicate their primary purpose for sponsoring interns is to recruit entry-level talent.
- 58.6% of 2011 interns were converted to full-time. In addition, 36% more companies offered internships in 2012 versus 2011.
- 83% of employers report higher retention rates for those new hires with internship experience versus those with none.

**Organizations**
- Student Chapter of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA). As a student member of the ADHA, you will receive all of the benefits of full membership in the ADHA and be able to preview your career as a dental hygienist. Some of the advantages that help:
  - Scholarships. The ADHA Institute for Oral Health offers a variety of scholarship programs and research grants for students seeking careers in dental hygiene.
  - Recognition in your field. Every level of membership gives you valuable opportunities for professional growth, recognition, and the development of leadership skills.
  - Networking opportunities. You’ll be able to connect with dental hygiene professionals and students from across the nation at the annual sessions of the ADHA’s Center for Lifelong Learning.
  - Financial assistance. The ADHA provides its members with affordable, professional liability insurance as well as group health, automobile, term life, and disability insurance. You will also be eligible to apply for a student MasterCard.
  - Continuing education. The ADHA helps you stay abreast of all the issues affecting the dental hygiene profession.

**Community Service.** When it comes to giving to the local community, UNH dental hygiene students are among the most active on campus. “Give Kids a Smile Day,” “Connecticut Missions of Mercy,” and Oral Health Awareness Day’s “A Healthy Body Starts with a Healthy Mouth” are just a few of the ways they make a valuable contribution to the oral health of their neighbors.

- Conferences and meetings. Dental hygiene students are conference-goers! The Nutmeg Conference, the Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Association annual meeting as well as the Yankee Dental Conference in Boston — the largest conference for dental professionals in New England — are some of the venues where students learn, network, and discover the latest developments in the field.

- UNH students are involved with a capital “I.” With over 160 clubs and activities on campus, it’s easy to join and make a contribution. Dental hygiene students also have their own professional organizations that help them stay motivated and up to date on what’s going on in their field while providing them with valuable peer support.

**Experiential Learning**

- Local: Community health care centers, clinic intern
- Public health dental hygiene, consumer advocate intern
- Dental supply industry, sales representative intern
- Long-term health care facilities, public health dental hygiene intern
- Government agencies
- School-based dental clinics, clinician intern
- Head Start Programs, educator intern
- UNH Dental Center, student clinical instructor intern
- School-based dental clinics, clinician intern
- Researcher, industry, or dental school intern
- Hospitals, Department of dentistry, clinician intern
- Connecticut State Dental Hygienists’ Association, administrative intern