

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
CLINICAL PRACTICE IV
DNHY 4038

CLINICAL PRACTICE IV

COURSE SYLLABUS (SPRING 2026)

[COURSE: Clinical Practice IV](#)

DNHY 4038 (8 Credit Hours)

DAY/TIMES: Mon. 8:00 - 12:00, Tue 8:00 - 12:00 **OR** 1:00 - 5:00 PM, Wed. 8:00 - 12:00 **AND** 1:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Centennial Hall, Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic - Room #146

Extramural Sites as Scheduled

INSTRUCTORS: LEAD: Kelly Holcomb, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed
Debra Kelley, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed
Jill Young, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed
Stephanie McCann, RDH, BSDH, MS
Melanie McIntyre, RDH, BSDH
Betsy Raines, RDH, BSDH, MS

Supervising Dentist: Sarah Fritzsch, DDS

TEXTBOOKS: **No Required Textbooks**

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: As taken from the Most Current MSU Course Catalogue

Clinical Practice IV

Prerequisite(s): DNYH 3114, 3005, 4018.

Clinical practice continued in the Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic as well as extramural sites in the community. Practice in the use of more advanced treatment modalities. Further development of instrumentation and assessment skills with limited instructor assistance. The student will assume responsibility for all aspects of dental hygiene treatment for each of their clinical patients, with limited instructor input and supervision.

COURSE PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to further develop and refine the assessment, instrumentation, and patient management skills acquired in prerequisite clinical courses. Advanced clinical experiences with emphasis on refinement of abilities to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate patient treatment will enable students to develop competency in providing comprehensive individualized patient care. Assistant and receptionist rotations in the Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic will further develop students' abilities to multitask and develop an understanding of the concept of the dental office staff working as one team. Clinical Practice IV consists of sixteen actual clock hours per week; students receive eight credit hours for successful completion of this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Given the integration of didactic and clinical experiences, the prerequisite courses, Clinical Practice I (DNHY 3114), Clinical Practice II (DNHY 3005), and Clinical Practice III (DNHY 4018) upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Utilize information obtained from the Med History in providing comprehensive patient care; determining need for special precautions, modifications and/or contradictions for treatment; manage emergencies, and make appropriate referrals to other health care providers.
2. Conduct a respectful cultural assessment of patients recognizing various dynamics that might have an effect on the dental hygiene care plan and treatment.
3. Assess and document patient vital signs, counsel patients on any irregularities, and make appropriate recommendations or referrals.
4. Perform an extraoral inspection and accurately document the findings with appropriate detail.
5. Thoroughly examine all oral tissues for signs of pathological changes, correctly document findings, and make appropriate recommendations and/or referrals.

6. Perform a periodontal assessment & accurately document findings including: AAP Classification, pocket depths, loss of attachment, mobility, furcation involvement, and bleeding sites within a reasonable time frame.
7. Graphically represent a patient's teeth with regard to caries, missing teeth or tooth structure, types and locations of restorations, fixed and removable appliances and developmental abnormalities within a reasonable time frame.
8. Determine need for radiographic evaluation of specific areas and/or entire dentitions and make appropriate recommendations for such surveys based on patient assessment/need.
9. Position and expose intraoral x-ray films; process, mount, label, and critique radiographic surveys according to radiological standards.
10. Analyze data collected to assess patient's needs, abilities, resources and attitudes as a basis for developing and prioritizing the Dental Hygiene Care Plan.
11. Revise treatment plans in accordance with the progress of clinical treatment.
12. Obtain the patient's informed consent based on effective case presentations of dental hygiene care plans.
13. Determine the outcomes of dental hygiene interventions using indices, instruments, examination techniques and patient self-report.
14. Utilize effective infection control techniques in accordance with the *MSU Dental Hygiene Program's Standard Protocol*; identifying any breach of protocol and remedying accordingly.
15. Apply principles of instrumentation and knowledge of tooth morphology in selecting hand and/or powered instruments to remove deposits, root plane, and reduce/ eliminate amalgam overhangs, in a timely manner.
16. Maintain tissue integrity while performing all intraoral instrumentation.
17. Control pain and anxiety during treatment through the use of accepted clinical and behavioral management techniques which are within the scope of dental hygiene practice in Texas.
18. Demonstrate adequate patient preparation, as well as proper set-up, utilization, and break-down of various powered scalers (magnetostrictive and **piezo units**)
19. Select and administer topical fluoride treatments, based on the needs of the individual patient; with appropriate patient preparation and education.
20. Accurately complete all patient records and charting forms with appropriate detail and in a timely manner.
21. Demonstrate correct techniques in administering CPR Basic Life Support, as may be necessary.
22. Select appropriate candidates for pit and fissure sealant placement and **demonstrate proper un-assisted application of sealants** on clinical patients; with adequate patient education and preparation.
23. Properly take alginate impressions; pour and trim acceptable diagnostic casts.
24. Correctly and efficiently perform all clinic receptionist duties in a professional manner, with a positive attitude.
25. Correctly and efficiently perform all clinic assistant duties with a positive attitude and in a professional manner, utilizing correct technique and infection control protocol.
26. Schedule patient appointments (procedures and time frame) in a manner that is both time efficient and meets the needs of the patient.
27. Demonstrate proper equipment maintenance in the lab, clinical, radiology and sterilization areas.
28. Select applicable candidates for placement of chemotherapeutic agents and demonstrate placement with appropriate patient education to clinical competency.
29. Electronically document patient assessment findings utilizing Ascend Academic computer software.
30. Value patient confidentiality and patient rights according to HIPAA guidelines.
31. Follow all state and federal regulatory requirements when rendering patient care.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

GRADING RATIONALE

The grade for this course is based on **QUALITY** (instrumentation, assessment/documentation, patient management, radiographs, professionalism, and clinic assistant/receptionist grades) **AND QUANTITY** (patient experience) requirements. Both play a significant role in the development of student competencies in patient care.

Competency evaluations (Process Eval) ensure that students can perform procedures at the minimum level of expertise determined necessary for this point in time in their education. Upon successful completion of the competency evaluations students can then work on improving their abilities with instructor assistance on patients in the Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic. Due to the substantial instructor-student collaboration during treatment **QUALITY grades alone (via Clinic Grade Sheets) are NOT true indicators of student competency.**

QUANTITY (patient experiences) requirements are set to ensure that each student has appropriate experiences to develop entry level competencies in patient care. QUANTITY also reflects the student's competency level as time management abilities are ultimately reflected in the number and type of patients upon which treatment is completed. Therefore, the number/type of patients treated and the number/type of procedures performed have a significant bearing on the student's final course grade for Clinical Practice 4.

COURSE GRADING:

DENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT GRADING SCALE: A = 92 – 100, B = 83 – 91, C = 75 – 82. Must earn a 75 or above to Pass

QUALITY GRADE POINTS: 60 % Instrumentation, 30 % Data Collection/Treatment Management, 10 % Radiographic Landmark Findings

Clinic Assistant/Receptionist Grade: Students will start with 100 points in this area. Infractions will result in the deduction of points from the applicable "100" starting points. Each infraction will incur a five (5)-point deduction from the initial 100 points. (See Assistant/Receptionist Forms, objectives & criteria – Student Handbook/Clinic Manual, Section 7.5 and 7.6).

Breach of Professionalism Protocol –During a clinical session a breach of the professionalism protocol not directly related to the treatment of a patient: will result in: 1st Infraction= Formal warning, 2nd Infraction = 5 point deduction from the FINAL clinic QUALITY grade, 3rd Infraction = 25 point deduction from the FINAL clinic Quality grade which will result in failure of the Clinical Practice course. (**See Student Handbook/Clinic Manual, Sections 3.5 - 3.7**)

QUANTITY GRADE POINTS

Quantity Requirements are set for each of the clinical procedures (*Breakdown on the following pages*).
Points will be deducted from the FINAL QUALITY GRADE POINTS for deficiencies in each of the areas.

COMPETENCY (PROCESS) EVALUATIONS (THREE Competency Eval in Clinical Practice 4):

1. Piezo Scaling

- **Pass/Fail Grading**
- **Scheduled by the instructor on fellow students**
- **Eval Form- Number 8.12 (Ultrasonic Scaling)**
- A student not demonstrating competency will not be permitted to perform procedures on patients in the clinical setting until passing the evaluation. This will have an effect on the student meeting quantity requirements. See Competency Evaluation Protocol below.

2. Time Management of 1-hour appointment

- **Grade will be assigned**
- **Scheduled by instructor on fellow students** on March 3, 2026
- **1-point deduction from final grade for every minute exceeding 60 minutes (not including instructor check-in)**
- **Evaluation form- Clinic Manual Number 8.7**

Management of Patient Treatment Competency Evaluations incorporate Competency Eval Number 8.1-8.4 / and 8.16 in the Clinic Handbook

3. Mock CRDTS/WREB Exam

- **Grade will be assigned**

- **Typodont and operatory will be assigned by faculty** on March 31, 2026
- Evaluation form will correspond with the examination

ATTENDANCE:

The Dental Hygiene Faculty feels very strongly that maximum participation in all clinical and laboratory exercises is critical to the development of clinical competencies. Therefore, **more than two absences for any reason will result in a loss of 5 points from the final course grade for each absence over 2.**

ANYONE MISSING MORE THAN FOUR (4) CLINICAL SESSIONS FOR ANY REASON WILL BE DROPPED FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE 3. YOU CAN NOT MATRICULATE INTO THE SPRING SEMESTER WITHOUT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING CLINICAL PRACTICE 3.

A student on **Probationary Status** will not be permitted to have absences for any reason until he/she is taken off probationary status by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee.

When the student has an open appointment time due to a No-show, cancellation, or no scheduled patient the student will be expected to work on impression requirements, help the clinic assistant or receptionist as needed, or assigned a specific skill to practice. **YOU MUST REMAIN IN THE CLINIC AREA.** The dressing/locker room is **not** considered a clinical area (*See Professionalism Criteria - Student Handbook*)

DO NOT SIT IN THE RECEPTION ROOM OR AT THE RECEPTION DESK unless you are the scheduled receptionist. If an instructor and/or the department secretary have to ask you to leave the reception desk **FIVE (5) points for Breach of Professionalism WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM your FINAL clinic grade.** You may study in your clinic unit with clinic instructor permission.

ALL STUDENTS MUST CHECK WITH AN INSTRUCTOR BEFORE LEAVING THE CLINIC AREA.

(*See Professionalism Criteria - Student Handbook*)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Dental Hygiene Honor System:

All Dental Hygiene courses adhere to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Many components of dental hygiene courses are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when answering objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty or staff without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he/she should ask the instructor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

PLEASE NOTE: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. Specifically, faculty may submit student papers and assignments to an external agency to verify originality and authenticity, and to detect for plagiarism

HYBRID COURSE:

Taking a hybrid course requires you to have access to a computer (with internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. All assignment

submissions made by students in D2L are considered final submissions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the correct and complete file is uploaded. If a student submits an incorrect document, an incomplete draft, or any unintended version, the assignment will be graded as submitted. **Students are strongly encouraged to double-check their upload before finalizing the submission.** Additionally, Apple file formats, such as .pages, .numbers, and Keynote files, will not be accepted. ALL submissions must be uploaded in Microsoft Office formats, such as .doc, .docx, and .ppt. or .xlsx or otherwise specified in assignment instructions. **Computer labs are available for student use in Centennial Hall (3rd floor), Moffett Library, Legacy, and Clark Student Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** Contact your instructor immediately if you have any computer trouble or technical difficulties in the course. The University cannot work directly on student computers due to liability and resource limitations; however, they can help you connect to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

MSU COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee

All Midwestern State University (MSU) students may legitimately appeal a course grade if 1) the student has not been evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, or 2) an error has been made in grading and/or posting (MSU Student Handbook, p. 37.) In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students has the responsibility to enforce standards of conduct for students as outlined in the MSU Student Handbook (p. 70-80).

When enrolled in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (COHSHS), students are often assigned to community agencies, such as health care facilities, social service agencies, or athletic environments, as part of their academic process. During these experiences, the student is expected to behave in a manner required of professionals working in this environment. COHSHS students may also be required to successfully complete a licensing/certification process following graduation. As a result, students in these programs are often held to a different academic and/or behavioral standard than students in other MSU programs. For example, students may not be allowed to progress in a program if they have been unsuccessful (D or F) in a certain number of courses in the major. In these circumstances, COHSHS faculty and administration, all of whom have had similar professional experience, may make decisions which negatively impact students' programmatic progress.

COHSHS students have a right to a review of decisions made by the program faculty, which prevent individuals from progressing in their program in a timely manner. However, those who participate in the review must understand the context of the professions involved. Therefore, **issues concerning the professional conduct of students in the COHSHS will NOT be brought to the University Grade Committee, but to the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee.** Specifically, the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee will review faculty decisions related to: Student conduct in a clinical experience, internship, or other work-related environment that negatively impacts the student's academic progress. This conduct may include behavior which is prohibited by licensing and/or professional standards or departmental policy. Student removal from a program because of a) professional conduct issues or b) failure to maintain academic standards required specifically by the program.

The American with Disabilities Act:

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in its admission, accessibility, and employment of individuals in programs and activities. MSU provides academic accommodations and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined by law, who are otherwise qualified to meet academic employment requirements. For assistance call (940) 397-4618 or (940) 397-4515. It is the student's responsibility to declare any disabilities. After declaration, preferably at the beginning of each semester, the student needs to contact individual instructors to determine any reasonable accommodations that may be required.

Social Media

DO NOT:

Do not use any social media site related to Midwestern State University or the Dental Hygiene Dept. /Program to harass, threaten, insult, defame or bully another person or entity; to violate any College policy; or to engage in any unlawful act, including but not limited to gambling, identity theft or other types of fraud.

- Post or store content that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, racist, excessively violent, harassing, threatening, bullying or otherwise objectionable or injurious.
- Post copyrighted content (such as text, video, graphics or sound files) without permission from the holder of the copyright. Remember, even information that is widely available to the public (such as text, photographs, or other material posted on the Internet) may be subject to copyright restrictions that prohibit unauthorized duplication or dissemination.

Campus Carry Statement:

Senate Bill 11 Handgun Policy -Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from licensed concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law (Penal Code 30.06 signage). Please note, open carry of handguns, whether licensed or not, and the carrying of all other firearms (rifles, shotguns, etc.), whether open or concealed, are prohibited on campus. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at: Campus Carry.