

Course Description

DEH4740 | Introduction to Health Concepts in Dental Hygiene | 3.00 credits

This foundation course introduces the study of dental health and related theories, perspectives, and methods. The course offers an overview of the methods for measuring population dental health, analytical tools for decision-making, and the evidence base for the effectiveness, risks, and efficiency of interventions, programs, and health policies. The course focuses on diseases, conditions, and challenges of dental health and includes the socio-economic contexts, institutional interventions to overcome challenges, national health systems, international health agencies, consortia, and alliances.

Course Competencies

Course Competency 1: The student will acquire general knowledge of oral health, dental diseases, demographic trends, and health implications, by:

1. Understanding the effects of oral diseases regarding prevalence, and distribution, as well as the relationship between oral disease, population trends, and disease patterns.
2. Describing the essential facts about the etiology of main oral conditions and their symptoms and signs.
3. Describing the impact of oral diseases on the well-being and quality of life, as well as its social and economic impact.
4. Identifying and assessing relevant oral health information and making sound decisions through acquired oral health literacy.

Course Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of epidemiological oral health trends by:

1. Describing the burden and distribution of oral and associated diseases in communities and geographical areas.
2. Identifying and advocating to address specific oral health needs.
3. Predicting oral health trends across the globe.
4. Explaining how the epidemiologic and demographic transition theories assist in describing disease patterns (including oral conditions) and their impact on communities, countries, or regions.

Course Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of health systems, policies, and institutions by:

1. Describing and applying health promotion and risk reduction strategies, such as healthy eating habits, cessation of tobacco, and reduction of harmful alcohol use.
2. Describing and gaining knowledge of the health care system in the community and country.
3. Advocating relevant strategies to prevent and reduce risk factors based on advocacy strategies to identify, mobilize, and connect relevant stakeholders and supporters.
4. Describing the processes, as well as the roles/functions of national and international stakeholders.
5. Demonstrating an integrated, interdisciplinary, team-oriented, and multilevel approach to patient-centered health and oral health care.