CURRICULUM
All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entering the dental hygiene program. The remaining credit hours are scheduled over 6 semesters plus summer sessions. The Dental Hygiene Program at IPFW must be completed as a full-time student.

ATTENDANCE
Because an experiential learning process is used in all dental hygiene courses, attendance is mandatory and monitored for all classes. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades and/or dismissal from the program. Some evening and weekend events are required each semester.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/IMMUNIZATIONS
Before beginning the Dental Hygiene Program in August of 2016, students must provide evidence they:

1) have had a recent physical examination (examination form provided by department with acceptance letter).
2) have obtained appropriate immunizations (as determined by physician).
3) have completed TB testing within the past year.
4) have completed Hepatitis B immunization series with a positive titer or can show proof of HepB immunity.
5) hold a current CPR/AED certification for healthcare providers (adult, infant and child).

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES
Throughout the dental hygiene curriculum, students work on dental patients to obtain clinical experience in dental hygiene procedures. Students will typically complete between 75 and 85 patients before graduating from the program. In general, students are responsible for recruiting many of their patients and scheduling their own appointments. The Dental Hygiene Clinic has a pool of recall patients; however, it is each student’s responsibility to contact recall patients and schedule appointments.

EXTRACURRICULAR/EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES
Throughout the dental hygiene curriculum, students are required to participate in activities that compliment their professional training and expose them to experiences in the community. Some evening and weekend events are required each semester.

Examples of professional activities include
~ Isaac Knapp Dental Hygienists’ Association meetings (the local dental hygiene association)
~ Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association (SADHA) meetings and philanthropic activities
~ Dental Health Month presentations and other community educational activities

Examples of off-campus clinical assignments include
~ Matthew 25 Dental Clinic (cleanings, x-rays, sealants)
~ Neighborhood Health Clinic Dental Clinic (cleanings, x-rays)
LICENSURE/CONTINUING EDUCATION
Upon successful completion of program requirements, graduates are eligible to take the written national board and state/regional clinical examinations required for licensure. IPFW's successful passing rate has remained high with over a 99% average. Dental hygienists are required to complete continuing education courses biennially to maintain their licenses. Continuing education courses are offered through all Indiana dental hygiene programs, local and state dental hygiene associations, home study courses, professional journals, and Internet courses.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Employment opportunities for IPFW dental hygiene graduates vary from year to year. The Dental Hygiene Program assists graduates with job placement in many locations throughout Indiana, as well as in other states and countries.

HOUSING
Information about IPFW's student housing facilities and other housing information are available through their website at http://new.ipfw.edu/offices/housing/index.html or at 260-481-4180. There is student housing and several nice apartment complexes near the IPFW campus. Apartment guides are available at all grocery stores and drug stores throughout Fort Wayne.

FINANCIAL AID
Question about financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office, Kettler Hall, Room 102B. Please direct any financial aid questions to the Financial Aid Office at 260-481-6820 or visit their website at www.ipfw.edu/finaid.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK
Criminal background checks are required for all College of Health and Human Services students. Applicants are advised that many states now require criminal background checks before licensure can be granted. A felony conviction may impact eligibility to obtain a dental hygiene license and work as a dental hygienist.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES
IPFW and the Dental Hygiene Program prohibit discrimination against any member of the university community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

Thank you for choosing the IPFW Dental Hygiene Program to help you pursue your dream of becoming a dental hygienist.

Updated 3/16/16