

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
DNH 226 - PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL HYGIENE I (2 CR.)**

**Course Description**

This course studies and compares concepts of delivery of health care, applying the public health dentistry model. Utilizes epidemiologic methods, research, and biostatistics as applied to oral health program planning, implementation, and evaluation. Incorporates and applies current health issues and trends. Lecture 2 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

The general purpose of this course is to introduce the dental hygiene student to community health problems, public health, and related institutions.

**Course Prerequisites/Co-Requisites**

None

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the concepts and issues of public health and their relation to health care.
- Apply basic principles of biostatistics and epidemiology in dental public health problems.
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate scientific literature.
- Discuss community water fluoridation and its relevance to dental public health.
- Discuss manpower utilization in relation to the need and demand for dental care.
- Discuss public and private payment mechanisms for dental care.
- Discuss issues affecting the quality of dental care and quality of assurance strategies.
- Discuss alternatives in delivery systems of dental care.
- Understand the special dental health needs of the geriatric population.
- Understand and utilize surveys and indices for collecting data regarding oral diseases to assist in program development.
- Understand oral cancer prevention and prevalence in public health settings.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- History and Principles of Public Health/Public Served
- History and Principles of Scientific Communication
- Principles of Epidemiology and Disease Patterns
- Applications of Epidemiology
- Special Needs Populations and Geriatrics
- Oral Cancer Prevention
- Community Water Fluoridation
- Financing Care, Workforce Access, and Quality Assurance
- Principles of Biostatistics
- Development, Planning, and Evaluation of Community Oral Health Education Programs