



Project Title: Transitioning into a dental hygiene baccalaureate: Understanding and enhancing academic and social integration

Project Summary (150 words maximum)

Our objective is to better understand and address the academic and social needs of dental hygiene students in the first year of their program. UBC offers a Baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene via two routes: i) a four-year Entry-to-Practice Program for mostly high school graduates, and ii) a two-year Degree-Completion Program for students with a dental hygiene diploma. Our project aims to identify the needs of these two sets of students during their first year and to then tailor student support and faculty support accordingly. We seek to understand the relationship among students' academic backgrounds, previous and current study habits, social and emotional supports, overall wellbeing, and academic success. Ultimately, we intend to develop appropriate workshops, make potential curricular changes, and offer more adequate support to all students successfully transition into the Dental Hygiene Degree Program.