My name is Jessica and I am a registered dental hygienist from a small town in Ontario. I decided to continue my studies at UBC in order to obtain my Bachelor of Dental Sciences. Upon completion of my dental hygiene diploma in Toronto, I decided I wanted to further my knowledge in the areas of scientific research, microbiology, and pathology. In order to obtain these goals, I started my schooling online here. I am currently in my second year of the five years it will take to complete my degree part-time.

While in college I did additional placements and volunteering to get a feel for the more uncommon roles of a dental hygienist. I worked as a research assistant in collaboration with the University of Toronto to sample bacteria and biofilm from the dental unit water lines. Additionally, I worked with a public health hygienist to do screenings for dental decay in public schools and daycare centres. Also, I was able to provide dental services for newly immigrated Canadians and individuals with low income. I did a placement at a geriatric hospital to better my skills in treating and communicating with patients with dementia and in wheelchairs. All of these roles were great experiences for me.

I currently work at a few different dental offices part-time in my surrounding area. Eventually I would like to have a position at an orthodontic practice as movement of the jaw and teeth fascinates me. Teaching dental hygiene may also be a possible career route in the future. I’ll have to see where life takes me!

Aside from dental work, I also work as a pharmacy assistant at a local drug store and teach swimming lessons/lifeguard in the summer. It is such a rewarding experience to be able to work with the elderly population and young children.

In my spare time, I enjoy doing yoga, drawing, reading, swimming, and dancing. I volunteer my time in the summer to do photography at an annual tractor heritage show. I also recently started into tractor pulling…anyone heard of it?

Thanks for reading!