



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

Thank you for your interest in the dental hygiene program. This information packet has been prepared to assist prospective students with the process of applying to the dental hygiene program as well as provide additional insight about a career in dental hygiene.

The Georgia Career Information System foresees an increased need of dental hygienists in the near future, and the outlook for dental hygienists is one of fast growth. The U.S. Department of Labor states “employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations.” According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for dental hygienists is \$72,330 annually.

For additional program information, visit our website at www.southeasterntech.edu. Click on Academic Programs/All Programs/Dental Hygiene to visit our program page. After reading this packet and visiting the program website, you can contact the Dental Hygiene Program Director at 912-538-3210 for additional information.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The dental hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized body recognized by the United States Department of Education that formally evaluates programs at regular intervals. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

DENTAL HYGIENE AS A PROFESSION

The advantages of a career in dental hygiene include excellent wages, flexible hours, a good working environment, the opportunity to help others, and being a member of a healthcare delivery team. Dental hygienists provide services in a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, managed care organizations, or correctional institutions. Each state has its own specific regulations and rules that determine the range of services that can be provided by a registered dental hygienist. Examples of these services include:

- Performing oral healthcare assessments
- Exposing and processing dental radiographs
- Removing deposits from teeth
- Fabricating mouthguards and whitening trays
- Applying fluoride and sealants to prevent decay
- Teaching patients proper oral hygiene techniques
- Aid in the development of individualized oral hygiene programs for patients
- Counseling patients on nutrition related to oral health
- Participating in community dental education and public health

Registered dental hygienists can further their education beyond the Associate in Applied Science degree level, preparing them for careers as educators, administrators, researchers, and dentists.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

The essential qualifications that students should demonstrate include but are not limited to the following:

- Students must have the **visual and perceptual abilities** sufficient for observation of patients, oral conditions, and assessment. Students must have the ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions clinically and radiographically. Students must possess a high degree of hand-eye coordination.
- Students' **auditory ability and other sensory skills** must be sufficient to monitor and assess the health needs and diagnose the oral conditions of patients as well as maintain patient safety.
- Students' **tactile sensitivity** must be sufficient for the use of detection, light pressure, and control when using small instruments in the oral cavity.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

STC offers a two-year program, leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree, with a major in dental hygiene. The goals of our program include educating and graduating professionals who are prepared intellectually, technically, and ethically to meet the current oral healthcare demands and challenges of today, providing a comprehensive dental hygiene curriculum that prepares graduates to be professionally competent and motivated to become lifelong learners, and to produce dental hygiene graduates capable of providing comprehensive care to diverse populations in a variety of settings.

The dental hygiene program content includes general education, biomedical sciences, dental sciences, dental hygiene sciences, and basic clinical education. The dental hygiene courses build on the theoretical knowledge and clinical competencies gained each semester. Due to the high demands of the program, students must be completely prepared to commit themselves to this program.

The dental hygiene program admits students once per year at the beginning of Summer semester. On an annual basis, approximately twelve (12) students will be offered admission into the program. A committee comprised of program faculty, administration personnel, admissions, and the dental hygiene advisory committee members developed the admission criteria to ensure maximum opportunity for student success in the program and on licensure examinations. Criteria for acceptance into this program are included in this packet. Applicants must submit all required documentation by **May 7, 2018**, for consideration in the admission process. Applicants not accepted into the program may reapply for the following year. Waiting lists are not maintained from one year to the next. Applicants must complete the application process for each attempt for admission into the dental hygiene program.

It is to be reiterated that meeting all admission criteria does not guarantee admission into the program. Qualified applicants will be accepted by competitive admission until all slots are filled.

CRIMINAL ARREST HISTORY/RECORD

Arrest or conviction of a misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations) or arrest or conviction of a felony could result in the student being denied licensure by the state dental board. Early communication with the state dental board is suggested.

NOTE: Individuals that have been summoned, arrested, taken into custody, indicted, convicted or tried for, or charged with, or pled guilty to, or pled, nolo contendere to, a violation of any law or ordinance or the commission of any felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations), (DWI & DUIs' are not minor traffic violations), or have been requested to appear before a prosecuting attorney or investigative agency in any matter will have to disclose this information to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. Although a conviction may have been expunged from the records by order of court, it still has to be disclosed to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. For each occurrence, a written statement giving the complete facts in the applicant's own words, including in such statement the date, name and nature of the offense, the name and locality of the court, and the disposition of each such matter. A court disposition must be attached to the licensure application. The licensing board will review the application and make a decision about granting licensure. If individuals have any concerns about how their criminal background history might affect their ability to obtain licensure, it is their responsibility to follow up with the licensing board for clarification.

EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

The practice of dental hygiene puts the student at risk for exposure to bloodborne and infectious diseases. STC's Exposure Control Plan is designed to provide the faculty and students with recognition of tasks, procedures, and activities which present the potential for occupational exposure to blood and airborne pathogens and a means of eliminating or minimizing exposures in the performance of their instructional duties or activities. The dental hygiene program at STC follows all state and federal regulations for the protection of faculty, students, patients, and staff. A complete manual of our compliance policies and procedures is available upon request. STC does not discriminate against students or faculty that may have a bloodborne and/or infectious disease. Due to the rigor of the program, students and faculty should be physically and mentally healthy. Students should consult with the Georgia Board of Dentistry for any licensing restrictions.

If admitted into the dental hygiene program, students must present evidence of the following official documents to the Dental Hygiene Program Director prior to entering the clinical component of the program:

-
- Documented proof of malpractice insurance purchased through STC
- Certification of Immunization Form
- Tuberculosis Testing
- Vision Examination Form

A mandatory orientation meeting will be scheduled to address these topics prior to the beginning of Summer semester.

PROGRAM RELATED COSTS

Students accepted into the program will be required to purchase a variety of instruments, supplies, texts, materials and other items. These expenses, not including tuition, are estimated at \$4,000 to \$5,000.

(Costs are estimates and are subject to change.)

Books/ Supplies: \$1,200 per semester

Dental Hygiene National Board Exam: \$410

CRDTS Examination: \$995

Supplies/site fee for clinical boards: \$165

Ultrasonic scaler rental fee for clinical boards: \$91

Georgia License Fee: \$75

Instruments: \$2100

Misc supplies: \$1500

Dental Hygiene National Board Review Course: \$425

Loupes: \$1000

*See also General Health Sciences Basic Clinical Requirements and Costs

READMISSION TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Students withdrawn from any dental hygiene course due to attendance, academic deficiencies, personal hardships, or students who have earned less than a “C” in a dental hygiene course will not be eligible to remain enrolled in the dental hygiene program. Students have the option of reapplying for admission into a future cohort. Readmission to the program will be granted on a competitive and space available basis, whereas all criteria apply as described in the dental hygiene program admissions criteria section. A maximum of one slot per class can be filled with a readmission. If more than one student qualifies for the readmission slot, the readmission slot will be awarded to the student who earns the most points on the Dental Hygiene Readmission Scoring Rubric based on the following readmission criteria:

- Grade Point Average of prerequisite courses
- Official transcript verifying graduation from a CODA accredited dental assisting program with a GPA or 3.0 or higher
- Written documentation verifying paid dental experience within the last 2 years
- Official transcript verifying completion of a technical certificate of credit, diploma, or degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

A student can readmit only one time. Due to the nature of the dental hygiene program, students must retake all dental hygiene courses. Students will not be given the option of completing a written exam or a clinical skills competency exam. Advanced standing cannot be earned.

ADVANCED STANDING/TRANSFER POLICY

The dental hygiene program does not allow students to obtain advanced standing due to previous dental education/work experience. Students are not allowed to transfer to the STC dental hygiene program from another dental hygiene program. The reason for these policies is due to the stringent board examinations and accreditation requirements for the profession of dental hygiene. A student with previous dental education or work experience is invited to apply for competitive admission into the dental hygiene program. The student, however, is not given an opportunity to earn advanced standing or exempt dental hygiene courses previously taken at another college. The dental hygiene program is based upon quality academic curriculum and principles. It is the belief of the dental hygiene program faculty that granting advanced standing or transfer of dental hygiene courses would compromise the integrity of the program.

Dental Hygiene Curriculum Sequence

Prerequisite courses required prior to program admission:

CHEM 1151 – Chemistry I (3hrs)
CHEM 1151L – Chemistry I Lab (1hr)
ENGL 1101 – Composition and Rhetoric (3hrs)
MATH 1111 – College Algebra (3hrs)
BIOL 2113 – Anatomy and Physiology I (3hrs)
BIOL 2113L – Anatomy and Physiology I (1hr)
BIOL 2114 – Anatomy and Physiology II (3hrs)
BIOL 2114L – Anatomy and Physiology II (1hr)
PSYC 1101 – Introductory Psychology (3hrs)

After dental hygiene program admission is granted, the sequence of curriculum will be as follows:

Summer Semester #1

BIOL 2117 – Microbiology (3hrs)
BIOL 2117L – Microbiology (1hr)
ENGL 2130 – American Literature (3hrs)
SPCH 1101 – Public Speaking (3hrs)
DHYG 2110 – Biochemistry/Nutrition Fund (2 hrs)

Fall Semester #1

DHYG 1040 – Preclinical DHYG Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 1050 – Preclinical DHYG Lab (2 hrs)
DHYG 1000 – Tooth Anatomy/Root Morphology (2 hrs)
DHYG 1010 – Oral Embryology and Histology (1 hr)
DHYG 1020 – Head and Neck Anatomy (2 hrs)

Spring Semester #1

DHYG 1110 – Clinical DHYG I Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 1111 – Clinical DHYG I Lab (3 hrs)
DHYG 1070 – Radiology Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 1090 – Radiology Lab (1 hr)
DHYG 1030 – Dental Materials (2 hrs)
DHYG 1206 – Pharmacology and Pain Control (3 hrs)

Summer Semester #2

DHYG 2010 – Clinical DHYG II Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2020 – Clinical DHYG II Lab (2 hrs)
DHYG 2200 – Periodontology (3 hrs)
DHYG 2050 – General & Oral Pathology/Pathophysiology (3 hrs)

Fall Semester #2

DHYG 2080 – Clinical DHYG III Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2090 – Clinical DHYG III Lab (4 hrs)
DHYG 2070 – Community Dental Health (3 hrs)
SOC 1101 – Introduction to Sociology (3 hrs)

Spring Semester #2

DHYG 2130 – Clinical DHYG IV Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2140 – Clinical DHYG IV Lab (4 hrs)

****COLL 1040 – College Foundations (3hrs) must be taken the first semester of attendance at STC**

STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Please provide the information listed below and submit this form to the Dental Hygiene Program Director by **May 7, 2018**.

I understand admission into the dental hygiene program is competitive, and I am not guaranteed entrance into the program upon completion of the prerequisite courses. _____ (Initial)

I request to be considered for acceptance into the dental hygiene program for Summer semester of 20____. I understand that I am not guaranteed entrance into the program upon completion of this form. _____ (Initial)

I have read the Dental Hygiene Program Information Packet. _____ (Initial)

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

DENTAL HYGIENE COMPETITIVE ACCEPTANCE CHECKLIST

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years old and present documentation of an earned high school diploma or GED.
2. Submit a completed application and application fee for admission to STC. Satisfy placement testing requirements for an associate degree program.
3. Submit a college transcript documenting completion of the following prerequisite courses:
 - CHEM 1151 – Chemistry I (3hrs)
 - CHEM 1151L – Chemistry I Lab (1hr)
 - ENGL 1101 – Composition and Rhetoric (3hrs)
 - MATH 1111 – College Algebra (3hrs)
 - BIOL 2113 – Anatomy and Physiology I (3hrs)
 - BIOL 2113L – Anatomy and Physiology I (1hr)
 - BIOL 2114 – Anatomy and Physiology II (3hrs)
 - BIOL 2114L – Anatomy and Physiology II (1hr)
 - PSYC 1101 – Introductory Psychology (3hrs)

If classes were completed at another college, a Transfer Credit Evaluation Form must be completed.

A grade of “C” or higher must be earned in each course. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for the prerequisite courses must be earned. CHEM and BIOL courses must have been completed within 5 years of admission into the dental hygiene program.

4. Sign and submit the “*Statement of Interest in Dental Hygiene Program*” Form to the Dental Hygiene Program Director.
5. Attend a mandatory Dental Hygiene Program Information Session presented by dental hygiene faculty on **Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 8:00 AM or 3:00 PM,** in the Health Sciences Annex- Room 906.
6. Complete a mandatory shadowing experience in the STC Dental Hygiene Clinic prior to **May 7, 2018.** Contact Dental Hygiene Program Director to schedule this session.
7. If applicable, ***but not required***, provide documentation of paid dental office experience, within the last 2 years. This documentation must state the number of hours of paid experience you have worked and must be signed by a licensed dentist. Submit documentation to the Dental Hygiene Program Director.
8. If applicable, ***but not required***, provide documentation of graduation from an accredited Dental Assisting program with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Submit documentation to the Dental Hygiene Program Director.

All of the items above must be completed by **May 7, 2018,** in order to be considered for competitive admission into the dental hygiene program.

PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission to the dental hygiene program is via a competitive selection process based primarily on grade point average of prerequisite core classes. Slots are awarded from the highest prerequisite grade point average downward until the maximum enrollment of approximately twelve (12) students is reached. In the case of a tie between candidates, the following criteria will be used to determine which candidate will be offered admission.

1. Documentation of paid dental experience within the last 2 years
2. Documentation of graduation from a CODA accredited dental assisting program with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
3. Submission date of required documentation