

# DENTAL HYGIENE

## FAQS

### 1. WHAT ARE DENTAL HYGIENISTS? WHAT DO THEY DO?

Dental hygienists are licensed health care professionals who promote oral health and overall wellness. Dental hygienists educate clients regarding oral hygiene and preventive oral care, remove soft and hard deposits from teeth, expose and develop dental x-rays, apply cavity-preventive agents, and provide other preventive dental care. Dental hygienists examine client's head, neck, lips, cheeks, tongue, teeth and gums recording the presence of diseases or abnormalities. After assessing a client's conditions, they develop a dental hygiene diagnosis and treatment plan. One of the distinctive features of the profession is flexible scheduling. Dental hygienists may be employed full- time, part-time, additionally, evening, and weekend schedules are widely available.

### 2. WHAT IS THE EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than average through 2030 and is expected to remain excellent, ranking among the fastest growing occupation, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater utilization of dental hygienists. U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>.

### 3. HOW DO I APPLY TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM?

You must first apply to CCBC and become a student. Then you should complete all of the prerequisite courses with "C" or better grade. You may wish to speak with one of our Pathways Health Professions Advisors during this process (find a link to their office on each campus below). Once you have completed your Prerequisite courses, you may complete and submit the CCBC School of Health Professions Dental Hygiene Program Application found in the ADEA DHCAS, along with the \$50 fee prior to the admissions deadline. You must submit all required documentation as outlined in the application packet to the SHP Admissions Office prior to the application deadline of April 15th. Use the below link to the admission packet for further details Academic Advising: <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/Resources-for-Students/Academic-Advisement/Contact-an-Academic-Advisor.aspx>.

#### 4. WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM?

The CCBC SHP Dental Hygiene Entry Level application must be completed and submitted through ADEA DHCAS along with the \$50 application fee by April 15<sup>th</sup>. There is also a supplemental application that must be completed accompanied by a \$20 fee due by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more about ADEA DHCAS use this link <http://www.adea.org/DHCASapp/Prepare-to-Apply.aspx>.

#### 5. DO ALL PREREQUISITE COURSES HAVE TO BE COMPLETED AT THE TIME THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED?

All prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to the application deadline date. Courses in progress at time of application deadline will not be considered for admission.

#### 6. IS COLLEGE COURSEWORK FROM 20 YEARS AGO STILL ACCEPTABLE?

Yes and no. Coursework in the Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, English and Mathematics may be acceptable. Coursework in Biological and Physical Sciences must have been completed within 5 years of when the student begins the program.

#### 7. HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM?

A weighted point system is used to rank an applicant's standing. Points are assigned for the following areas: overall GPA, science GPA, grades in prerequisite courses, and completion of general education requirements. Additionally, students are required to complete 16 hours of observation with a dental hygienist, three letters of recommendation, and the ATI TEAS examination.

#### 8. HOW MANY TIMES A YEAR WILL THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADMIT A NEW DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS?

The SHP will admit one class per year during the fall semester into the dental hygiene program.

#### 9. WHERE WILL THE DENTAL HYGIENE COURSES BE OFFERED?

The prerequisite courses and general education requirements for completion of the Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science Degree can be taken at any one of the CCBC campuses. All of the Dental Hygiene program classes, labs and clinic sessions will only be offered at the Dundalk campus. During the last semester of the Dental Hygiene program



there will be an extern-ship that is as assigned off campus.

## 10. HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM? WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

The program is five semesters, which includes one 7-week summer semester with 53 credit hours required (not including prerequisite courses) for successful completion of the Dental Hygiene program requirements. Students enter in the fall and graduate in May, two years later. The daily schedule for the Dental Hygiene program varies by semester and year; however typically courses, labs and clinics will occur between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## 11. CAN THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM BE COMPLETED PART-TIME?

The Dental Hygiene program requires a full-time academic commitment; therefore the program cannot be completed part-time.

## 12. ARE THERE OTHER EXPENSES THAT STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IN ADDITION TO TUITION?

Yes, there are other expenses that include books, dental instruments and supplies, dental loupes, uniforms, physical examination and immunizations, liability insurance, background check and drug testing, licensing examinations and license fees.

## 13. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM?

Be sure that you have read the admissions packet for Dental Hygiene. If you have any academic advising related questions, it is recommended that you contact a **Pathways Health Professions Academic Advisor** by scheduling an appointment. Contact them here: <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/Resources-for-Students/Academic-Advisement/Contact-an-Academic-Advisor.aspx>.