



## 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 \$77,090 annually.

For additional program information, visit the program webpage at the [Southeastern Technical College Website \(www.southeasterntech.edu\)](http://www.southeasterntech.edu). Click on Programs. Click on Degrees. Click on Dental Hygiene Degree. After visiting the program website and reading this packet, prospective students with additional questions can contact the Dental Hygiene Program Director at (912) 538-3210.

### 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 U.S. 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

Registered dental hygienists are essential healthcare professionals that work in a variety of professional settings. They perform numerous critical services designed to detect and prevent diseases of head and neck region and the oral cavity. The scope of practice includes: oral prophylaxis; periodontal debridement; examining the head, neck, and oral areas for signs of disease; educating patients about oral health; exposing radiographs; and applying fluoride and sealants. Registered dental hygienists use evidence-based medicine as it relates to the treatment of gingival and periodontal diseases and conditions aimed to arrest active disease and maintain the periodontium. The role of a registered dental hygienist is to provide the process of care for a variety of populations such as children, adolescent, adult, geriatric, and special needs.

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 or corporate dental offices, public health clinics, managed care

organizations, dental clinics at military bases, and correctional institutions. 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.
- Students must demonstrate exceptional communication skills, organizational skills, and productivity.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Southeastern Technical College (STC) offers a two-year program, leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree, with a major in Dental Hygiene. The goals of the 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 producing 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 12 students will be admitted 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. Applicant must submit all required documentation by **May 8, 2023**, 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 & DUI 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 decide 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 AND AIRBORNE 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 and Tuberculosis Testing Form
- Vision Examination Form

A mandatory orientation and registration 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 and fees, are estimated at \$4,000 to \$5,000. Program related costs are estimates and subject to change.

- Books/Supplies: \$1,200 per Semester
- Dental Hygiene National Board Exam: \$550
- CRDTS Examination: \$1,025
- Supplies/Site Fee for Clinical Boards: \$175
- Georgia Board of Dentistry Application Fee: \$175
- Instruments: \$2,100
- Miscellaneous Supplies: \$1,500
- Dental Hygiene National Board Review Course: \$425
- Loupes: \$1,000

\*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 of 3.0 or higher
- Official transcript verifying completion of a technical certificate of credit, diploma, or degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Written documentation verifying paid dental experience within the last two (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 at mandatory Dental Hygiene program informational session.

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.

#### COMPETITIVE ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is via a competitive selection process based 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 12 students is reached.

**Tiebreaker Scoring Rubric and Documentation:** In the case of a tie between candidates, the slot will be awarded to the student who earns the most points on the Tiebreaker Scoring Rubric based on the following criteria:

- Documentation of paid dental experience within the last two (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 at the mandatory Dental Hygiene program informational session.
- Official transcript verifying graduation from a CODA accredited Dental Assisting program with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Official transcript verifying completion of a technical certificate of credit, diploma, or degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Cumulative Grade Point Average of all courses completed in the last 5 years.

If applicable, documentation of the tiebreaker criteria/documentation must be submitted by **May 8, 2023**.

## Dental Hygiene Curriculum Sequence

### Prerequisite courses required prior to program admission:

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

After competitive admission into the Dental Hygiene program, the sequence of curriculum will be as follows:

### Summer Semester #1

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

### Fall Semester #1

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

### Spring Semester #1

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

**Summer Semester #2**

DHYG 2010 – Clinical Dental Hygiene II Lecture (2 hours)

DHYG 2020 – Clinical Dental Hygiene II Lab (2 hours)

DHYG 2200 – Periodontology (3 hours)

DHYG 2050 – General and Oral Pathology/Pathophysiology (3 hours)

**Fall Semester #2**

DHYG 2080 – Clinical Dental Hygiene III Lecture (2 hours)

DHYG 2090 – Clinical Dental Hygiene III Lab (4 hours)

DHYG 2070 – Community Dental Health (3 hours)

SOCI 1101 – Introduction to Sociology (3 hours)

**Spring Semester #2**

DHYG 2130 – Clinical Dental Hygiene IV Lecture (2 hours)

DHYG 2140 – Clinical Dental Hygiene IV Lab (4 hours)

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

## DENTAL HYGIENE COMPETITIVE ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

1. Be at least 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 an official college transcript documenting completion of the following prerequisite courses:

ENGL 1101–Composition and Rhetoric (3 hours)

MATH 1111–College Algebra (3 hours)

PSYC 1101–Introductory Psychology (3 hours)

BIOL 2113–Anatomy and Physiology I (3 hours)

BIOL 2113 L– Anatomy and Physiology I Lab (1 hour)

BIOL 2114– Anatomy and Physiology II (3 hours)

BIOL 2114 L– Anatomy and Physiology II Lab (1 hour)

CHEM 1151–Survey of Inorganic Chemistry (3 hours)

CHEM 1151 L–Survey of Inorganic Chemistry Lab (1 hour)

- (If you completed the prerequisite courses at Southeastern Technical College, you do not have to submit an official transcript of the grades in the prerequisite courses.) 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 five (5) years of admission into the Dental Hygiene program.
4. Attend a mandatory Dental Hygiene program informational session presented by the Dental Hygiene faculty on the Vidalia campus, Health Sciences Annex-Building C, Room 906. Informational sessions will be conducted on the following dates and times: **Monday, March 6, 2023, at 4 p.m.** and **Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 8 a.m.** Each session will start on time. Prospective students who arrive late will not be allowed to interrupt the session. Prospective students must attend only one of the informational sessions. Due to limited seating, friends and family should not accompany prospective students to the mandatory informational session. Only prospective students who are applying for program admission for **Summer 2023** should attend one of the sessions.
  5. Read the Dental Hygiene Information Packet carefully. Review, sign, and submit a “Statement of Interest in the Dental Hygiene Program” form to the Dental Hygiene Program Director at the mandatory Dental Hygiene program informational session.
  6. Deadline for submission of required documents is **Monday, May 8, 2023**, in order to be considered for admission into Summer semester 2023. Note: Only one class will be accepted into the Dental Hygiene program each year, beginning Summer semester.

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

I have read and reviewed the Dental Hygiene Program Information Packet and understand the information and deadlines outlined in the packet. 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 or this form. I request to be considered for competitive admission into the Dental Hygiene program for Summer semester of **2023**. Please provide the information listed below and submit this form to the Dental Hygiene Program Director at the mandatory Dental Hygiene program informational session.

**Prospective Student Signature and Date:**

**Prospective Student Printed Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Address:**