



Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the **Dental Hygiene Program** at Cuyahoga Community College. Our curriculum emphasizes clinical dental hygiene practice and academic excellence. The graduate completing the program is prepared for Regional and State licensing examinations and the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination.

The full-time, daytime course of study is rigorous; however, the rewards of the profession are exceptional. Opportunities for part-time employment and flexible schedules are common.

Entrance to the program is guaranteed to applicants who complete five Admission Courses with a 3.0 CORE GPA and 2.75 overall GPA. Please read the enclosed information carefully and follow the application procedures exactly. It is recommended that you keep a copy of all credentials for your own records. It is **your** responsibility to verify that your folder is complete, including verification of the evaluation of all transcripts from colleges/universities you have attended. If you would like further information, please call the Health Careers Enrollment Center at 216-987-4247 or myself at 216-987-4494 and we will be happy to meet with you, discuss the Program in detail and explain how a career in dental hygiene may fit into your personal goals. Please feel free to check in with me at any time during the pre-requisite completion process and advise me of your progress.

Best wishes in the pursuit of a rewarding career through study at Cuyahoga Community College.

Sincerely,

*Anne Myatt*

Anne Myatt RDH,BSAS  
Program Director  
Dental Hygiene

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE  
DENTAL HYGIENE

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

During the past half-century, Dental Hygiene has emerged and expanded as a prominent career for a person interested in working as an important part of the dental health team. As licensed professionals, dental hygienists provide education and treatment to prevent cavities and periodontal disease. They help clients maintain healthy teeth and gums, which in turn helps to promote overall wellness. Client care performed by dental hygienists may include:

- √ conducting head and neck exams
- √ recording medical and dental health histories
- √ monitoring blood pressure and vital signs
- √ scaling teeth above and below the gum line to remove soft and hard deposits
- √ capturing and interpreting dental images
- √ checking changes or abnormalities in the mouth
- √ preparing dental charts
- √ applying fluorides and sealants to protect teeth from cavities
- √ teaching patients about oral self care
- √ counseling patients on proper nutrition for maintaining healthy gingiva and teeth
- √ administering local and topical anesthesia and nitrous oxide

The dental hygienist learns specialized clinical skills providing direct client care and may be responsible for community distribution of information related to prevention of oral diseases and the maintenance of oral health.

The Dental Hygiene Program at Cuyahoga Community College was first accredited in 1966 by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Our nationally recognized faculty have graduate degrees and extensive experience clinically and in educational concepts geared to the adult learner.

COURSE OF STUDY:

The Dental Hygiene Program consists of two academic years of training. Dental Hygiene students complete approximately 2,000 hours of classroom study with approximately 600 of the hours dedicated to supervised clinical dental hygiene instruction in the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Tri-C. There are no evening courses offered and the program is considered to be a full-time curriculum. Outside employment while in the program is not always feasible due to course requirements and a variable class schedule.

Courses in anatomy and physiology, microbiology, periodontology, pain management, public health, pharmacology, histology, chemistry and nutrition will provide a knowledge of the human body and its functions, thereby establishing an understanding of the interrelationship between general and oral health.

Studies of psychology, nutrition and community oral health enable the dental hygienist to teach the public complete oral health education in private offices, schools and the community.

Students obtain clinical experience in the state of the art Dental Hygiene Clinic which is equipped with computer enhanced operatories, panoramic and intraoral radiographic units, digital and phosphor plate radiography and intraoral cameras. The Technology Learning Center is equipped with computers and classrooms suited for multimedia presentations.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

One of the most appealing features of dental hygiene is its extreme flexibility. Employment may be full or part time, geared to individual needs and desires. The opportunity of beginning a career is open to the mature individual at various stages in their life.

Salaries of dental hygienists are affected by geographic location, employment setting, education and experience. Dental Hygienists who work in private dental offices may be paid on an hourly, daily, salary or commission basis. Graduates report entry-level salaries ranging from \$25-33/hour.

Dental Hygienists may impart their skills and professional knowledge to a variety of fields. The obligation to serve the community and the dental hygiene profession is of the utmost importance to the dental hygienist.

The majority of dental hygienists are employed in private dental offices. Their primary duties are the oral prophylaxis and oral health education. Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average in response to increasing demand for dental care. Demand will be stimulated by population growth, and greater retention of natural teeth by the larger number of middle-aged and elderly people.

Positions are available in the Cleveland area and throughout the United States.

### CAREER LADDER

After completion of this program, interested students may transfer to any institution to pursue a Baccalaureate Degree. Many students may transfer to many four-year institutions without loss of credit such as: Cleveland State University, Youngstown State University, & The Ohio State University. Any four-year institution with a Baccalaureate Degree program will admit a qualified transfer student, however some of the Dental Hygiene credits may not transfer. Distance educational opportunities exist and are appealing to various students.

VISION The Dental Hygiene Program at Cuyahoga Community College will be a prominent leader in dental hygiene education committed to academic excellence and clinical delivery of care.

MISSION; The Dental Hygiene Program at Cuyahoga Community College provides dental hygiene education and services to a diverse community of learners in support of workforce and economic development.

### PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Dental Hygiene Program of Cuyahoga Community College offers an education for individuals from multicultural and diverse backgrounds who aspire to enter the dental hygiene profession. Through didactic and laboratory foundations, the curriculum prepares the student to develop clinical expertise and professional skills essential for the delivery and advancement of preventive and therapeutic oral health services to the community

### GOALS

The Dental Hygiene Program of Cuyahoga Community College strives to:

1. Graduate clinically competent and ethical dental hygienists prepared as primary oral health care providers.
2. Inspire the dental hygiene student to assume a leadership role as a resource person within the community and to advance the profession of dental hygiene in a rapidly changing health-care conscious society.
3. Prepare students to recognize that standards of care evolve and change and that continuing education is a primary responsibility of health care providers.
4. Apply the dental hygiene process of care to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate, and document dental hygiene treatment to a diverse patient population.
5. Maintain a contemporary program that reflects relevant and current evidence-based dental hygiene practice.

### DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Discrimination against any individual based upon a race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status, military status and genetic information is prohibited. Any employee, student or other person who wishes to report discrimination or harassment based on any of the aforementioned protected classes, Section 504 and Title II of the American Disabilities Act (related to disability discrimination) should file a complaint or



**DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

- 1.0 Act responsibly toward self, peers, faculty, dental professionals and clients.
- 2.0 Demonstrate critical thinking and decision-making skills in all aspects of client care.
- 3.0 Communicate verbally and in writing to clients, peers, and other health professionals
- 4.0 Integrate the Code of Ethics for Dental Hygienists with evidence of skills in ethical reasoning
- 5.0 Incorporate professional integrity and continued growth into all aspects of dental hygiene care.
- 6.0 Determine the validity of oral health services in various segments of the community using evidence-based methods.
- 7.0 Demonstrate the ability to promote oral health in the global community.
- 8.0 Recognize the need and follow protocol indicated for medical emergencies that occur in an oral health care environment.
- 9.0 Collect, analyze and document accurately current and historical data on the systemic and oral health status of a variety of clients that impacts the delivery of dental hygiene care. (ASSESSMENT)
- 10.0 Utilize all the information gleaned through the assessment process and develop a comprehensive dental hygiene diagnosis incorporating current research. (DIAGNOSIS).
- 11.0 Devise a client-centered dental hygiene care plan that is evidence-based. (PLANNING)
- 12.0 Apply appropriate treatment modalities and communicate oral health education concepts that will result in the achievement of the dental hygiene care plan. (IMPLEMENTATION)
- 13.0 Determine, in partnership with the client, if the implementation phase was effective in achieving the goals outlined in the comprehensive dental hygiene care plan and modify when indicated. (EVALUATION)
- 14.0 Ensure that documentation is complete and accurate of all collected data, treatment planned and provided, recommendations and other information relevant to client care and treatment. (DOCUMENTATION)

**DENTAL HYGIENE****Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene**

<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credit Hrs.</u>
<u>Program Admissions Requirements</u>		<u>Credit hrs.</u>
BIO 1100	Introduction to Biological Chemistry	3
BIO 2331	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 2341	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 1010	College Composition I	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	<u>3</u>
		<b>17</b>
<u>First</u>		<u>Credit hrs.</u>
DENT 1300	Preventive Oral Health Services I	4
DENT 1311	Dental Anatomy, Histology and Embryology	2
DENT 1320	Dental Hygiene Fundamentals	1
DENT 1331	Dental Imaging	3
DENT 1341	Foundational Principles of Dental Hygiene Practice	1
MATH 1240	Contemporary Mathematics	<u>3</u>
		<b>14</b>
<u>Second</u>		<u>Credit hrs.</u>
BIO 2500	Microbiology	4
DENT 1400	Preventive Oral Health Services II	5
DENT 1410	Current Concepts in Dental Materials	2
DENT 1420	Periodontics I	2
DENT 1431	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
DENT 1440	General and Oral Pathology	<u>2</u>
		<b>17</b>
<u>Third</u>		<u>Credit hrs.</u>
DENT 2200	Local Anesthesia and Pain Management	2
DENT 2300	Preventive Oral Health Services III	5
DENT 2321	Periodontics II	1
DENT 2332	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	2
DENT 2340	Community Oral Health I	1
DIET 1220	Nutrition for Dental Hygiene	2
COMM 1000	Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication	<u>3</u>
	or COMM 1010 Fundamentals of Speech Communication	
		<b>16</b>
<u>Fourth</u>		<u>Credit hrs.</u>
DENT 2400	Preventive Oral Health Services IV	5
DENT 2440	Community Oral Health II	1
DENT 2990	Dental Hygiene Practice <u>C</u>	1
SOC 1XXX	Sociology	<u>3</u>
		<b>10</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL</b>		<b><u>74</u></b>

C = Capstone Course

## ENTRANCE CRITERIA

**All requirements for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program must be met before applying to the program.** Once all of the admission requirements have been met and a COMPLETE application is received, a letter of acceptance with projected starting date will be mailed to the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application as soon as admission requirements are complete to receive the next available class seat. A COMPLETE application includes the following:

1. Completion of a Cuyahoga Community College Application. Do this before you submit any transcripts.
2. Completion of the Health Career/Dental Hygiene Program Application\*.
3. Submission of an official high school transcript and /or GED transcript. Request the high school or GED office to forward one (1) official transcript directly to Tri-C, Office of the Registrar PO BOX 5966 Cleveland, OH 44101 and one (1) to YOU so that YOU can submit with your completed application packet.
4. If you have attended colleges or universities OTHER than Tri-C, request the institution/s to forward one (1) to Tri-C, Office of the Registrar, PO BOX 5966 Cleveland, OH 44101 and one (1) to YOU so that YOU can submit with your completed application packet. Once received, Office of Registrar, requires 1-2 weeks to evaluate transcripts.
5. Completion of the following **Admission Requirements** (or transfer of comparable courses from another college or university) with a 3.0 GPA. All science courses must have been completed within the past 5 years. **Only three of the Admission Courses may be repeated one time to improve a grade from a previous attempt (grade). The only three that may be repeated are ENG 1010, PSY 1010 and ONE science. A 'W' is counted as an attempt (grade).**

**Admission Courses for Dental Hygiene Program must be completed with a "C" or better to reflect a CORE GPA of 3.0. Overall GPA must be at least a 2.75.**

<b>ENG-1010 College Composition</b>
<b>PSY-1010 General Psychology</b>
<b>BIO- 1100 Biological Chemistry</b>
<b>BIO-2331 Anatomy and Physiology I</b>
<b>BIO-2341 Anatomy and Physiology II</b>

6. Completion of 16 hours observation in a dental office of a Registered Dental Hygienist (Observation Form attached at the end of this Packet). 4 hours of observation must be in the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Tri-C. Call 216 987 4413 to schedule an appointment.
7. *NOTE: The observation requirement has been waived due to COVID-19*
8. Successful completion of Tri-C authorized background check, fingerprinting and Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) records search completed **after acceptance** and within specific time period. Details at Orientation. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/healthcareers/Pages/BackgroundCheckInformation.aspx>

\*Completed Application includes the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Health Careers Application
- \_\_\_\_\_ High School Transcript/ GED
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tri-C transcript or DegreeWorks verification indicating completion of admission courses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Official college transcript from institution other than Tri-C indicating completion of Admission Courses and **grade** awarded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Application Worksheet

**Do NOT submit an application unless it is complete. Incomplete applications will be returned.**

**Remaining degree requirements may be taken while waiting to enter the dental hygiene program.**

**Applicants must remain in continuous good standing (2.75 overall gpa) for final enrollment into dental hygiene and while enrolled in the program.**



### TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION?

If you have attended an institution other than Tri-C: Request all official transcripts be forwarded from previously attended institutions (does not include Tri-C) to Cuyahoga Community College, Office of the Registrar, PO Box 5966, Cleveland, OH 44101-0966 for evaluation. Once the transcript has been evaluated and courses visible on your Tri-C transcript. Scan and submit the completed Health Careers/Dental Hygiene application to: **Cuyahoga Community College, Health Careers Enrollment Center at [Healthcareers@tri-c.edu](mailto:Healthcareers@tri-c.edu)**

Please make an appointment with a counselor or the Dental Hygiene Program Director to review your transcript prior to entry into the program. Courses that can be taken while waiting to begin officially in the Dental Hygiene Program include those that fulfill general education requirements such as:

- MATH 1240 Contemporary Mathematics or a higher level math
- DIET 1220 Nutrition for Dental Hygiene OR DIET 1200 Normal Nutrition
- BIO 2500 Microbiology
- SOC 1xxx 3 credit hours of Sociology
- COMM 1000 Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication  
or COMM 1010 Fundamentals of Speech Communication

MICROCOMPUTER APPLICATIONS: It is the expectation that students accepted into the program have practical applications in creating, editing, saving and printing computer generated materials in a word processing program and power point.

SUBSTITUTIONS AND WAIVERS: Substitutions and Waivers no longer appear on the AGIS report. Candidates will need to indicate in the submitted application that there has been an approval of substitution or waiver either by including a copy of their approved substitution form or by documentation.

PASS /NO PASS (P/NP): The Dental Hygiene Program requires a letter grade for all students who *may* elect to receive a Pass/No Pass score. Credits are awarded and will be included in the computation of current or cumulative grade point averages. Therefore, all Dental Hygiene curriculum courses, including general degree requirements must reflect a letter grade.

FELONY FOR FORGERY STATEMENT: Due to the increase rise in patient identity theft, students with a convicted felony for forgery will not be accepted into a health career program, additionally a Background Check is required for all matriculating students. Information will be presented at program Orientation.

FINANCIAL AID: Eligibility to participate in the federal programs is determined by the completion of the FAFSA. This form should be completed asap so that it is received by the financial aid office no later than two months prior to the term in which the student plans to be enrolled. These forms can be obtained through the Metropolitan Campus Financial Aid Office. Financial Aid applications may be submitted on line [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:** The dental hygiene student receives clinical experience in the Metropolitan Campus Dental Hygiene Clinic. To appreciate the services provided by the dental hygienist all students must participate as student partners during the pre-clinical and dental materials courses. Under the supervision of a supervising dentist and dental hygiene instructor, the dental hygiene student provides preventive services to dental hygiene clients. While assistance in appointing clients is provided by the dental hygiene support specialist, the student is ultimately responsible for procurement of clients.

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**LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION:** Dental hygienists must be licensed. License fee for the State of Ohio is \$147.00. Candidates for Ohio licensure must be a graduate of an accredited school and pass both a national and regional (clinical) exam. Successful completion of the computerized National Board of Dental Hygiene Examination (Pearson VUE) is required for licensure, and costs approximately \$430.00. The ADEX clinical examination is administered by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments and costs approximately \$975.00. Completion of the computerized local anesthesia exam (CDCA) is encouraged and required for those wishing to administer local anesthesia in Ohio (\$150.00). A graduate cannot be employed as a dental hygienist before successfully passing the NBDHE and CDCA/ADEX examination and obtaining a license from the Ohio State Dental Board.



## Cuyahoga Community College

### Dental Hygiene Application Worksheet (Complete and include with Application)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed the entrance criteria as described in the Dental Hygiene Information Packet. I understand that my overall GPA must be 2.75 or greater and I must maintain that GPA to remain in the Dental Hygiene Program. The Admission courses must AVERAGE a 3.0-B average. A 'W' (withdrawal) is a grade.

Quality Points: Grade x Credit Hour = Quality Points. A is worth 4 quality points, B is worth 3 quality points, C is worth 2 quality points. Divide the sum of the quality points by 17 credit hours to determine overall CORE GPA.

Example: 'B' grade earned in BIO 1100, 'B' 3pts x 3 credit hours=9 Quality Pts.

FYI: It is possible to receive a "C" in a course as long as you have received an "A" in an equivalent **credit hour** course. Ex: Grade of C in BIO 1100 3 cr hr, A in ENG 1010 3 cr hr = B average. NOT EQUIVALENT: Grade of A in Bio 1100- 3 cr hr and a C in BIO 2331 4 cr hr.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CORE	Term & Year Taken	Grade Earned*	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Was Course Ever Repeated?	If yes, when? Grade?**
ENG 1010		x	3	=	Yes/No	
PSY 1010		x	3	=	Yes/No	
BIO 1100		x	3	=	Yes/No	
BIO 2331		x	4	=	Yes/No	
BIO 2341		x	4	=	Yes/No	
*A=4, B=3, C=2						

**\*\* English and Psychology and one Science course may be repeated once (1) to improve a grade. A 'W' (withdrawal is counted as an attempt/grade).**

Grade Point Average (Admission Courses)

Total of quality points ÷ credit hours (17) = \_\_\_\_\_ CORE GPA

Overall Cumulative GPA (all college coursework) \_\_\_\_\_ Overall GPA

Please scan and email completed Dental Hygiene Application Packet to the Tri-C Health Careers Enrollment Center at [Healthcareers@tri-c.edu](mailto:Healthcareers@tri-c.edu)