

Bergen Community College

Dental Hygiene Program Admission Information Package

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Dental Hygienists are members of the preventive oral health care team.

If you enjoy helping people, working with your hands as well as your mind, and playing an important role in helping your patients maintain ideal health, then Dental Hygiene may be the career for you.

A Dental Hygienist is a licensed professional, oral health educator and clinician, who, under the supervision of a dentist, is responsible for providing treatment that promotes both oral and total health care. Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) provide a wide range of services in dental practices and may pursue a variety of career options including clinical, administrative, education, public health and research.

Each state has established licensure requirements for Dental Hygienists. The Dental Hygiene curriculum is a challenging one that emphasizes a "hands on" approach and incorporates a variety of educational experiences and environments from the traditional classroom to the lab and state of the art clinic.

Roles of a Dental Hygienist

Obtained from https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/The_Roles_of_a_Dental_Hygienist.pdf

Health Professions AAS – Dental Hygiene Program

Code: AAS.HP.DENTL

The Dental Hygiene Program is designed to provide the student with both an academic and clinical education that prepares them for employment opportunities in the field of dental hygiene. The program subscribes to Bergen Community College's mission to education not only within a specific curriculum but to provide a variety of student activities and community outreach which enhances professional development and access to care. The program incorporates didactic, clinical, technological, and laboratory teaching approaches throughout the curriculum. The program prepares the student to meet national, regional, and state licensing requirements and fulfills requirements for an Associate in Applied Sciences degree.

Program Length: 24 months; Pre-Admission Test: Dental Hygiene Admissions Exam; GPA for admissions eligibility: 2.50

High school applicants must attain the age of 18 by the first day of the first semester of the program.

High School prerequisite courses: Chemistry, with lab; Biology, with lab; Algebra. College requirements: [BIO-109](#), [CHM-112](#) (if indicated by Placement Testing). Application Deadline: January 15; Program Admits: Fall semester

Eligible candidates are invited to sit for the Dental Hygiene Admissions Examination.

A college student must successfully complete [CHM-112](#) before the application deadline, **Jan 15**.

If a high school student is going to apply to the DH program, they must complete [CHM-112](#), College Chemistry, before the application deadline, January 15. A junior or senior high school student, 16 years of age or older, may apply for dual enrollment, with their guidance counselors or principals permission/endorsement. Then they can register for [CHM-112](#) during the fall semester and successfully complete prior to the application deadline.

The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate the skills and knowledge to competently, legally, and ethically access, plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene services and promote access to care.
- Apply the skills and knowledge to provide dental hygiene services which meet professional standards and licensure eligibility.
- Train graduates to provide comprehensive dental hygiene services to diverse populations in the community.
- Promote lifelong learning and commitment to professional development.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary health professionals to provide disease prevention, and health promotion.
- Equip students to make evidence-based decisions by acquiring, analyzing and documenting data utilizing current scientific research.

Career Pathways

Clinical Practitioner	Community Health Hygienist	Educator
Administrator	Sales Representative	Researcher

- ❖ All pre-requisites must be completed **before** the application deadline.
- ❖ All students MUST have completed the Criminal History Background check (CHBC) with Adam Safeguard prior to registering for the Dental Hygiene Program. All background results must be negative to enter the program. Students with a positive result will not be permitted to enter the Dental Hygiene Program.
- ❖ Eligible candidates are invited to sit for the Dental Hygiene Entrance Examination.

Criminal Background Check

- ❖ BCC must abide by requirements of hospitals, schools, and other agencies in which students have clinical experiences. Clinical agencies used for rotation / external experiences have the same requirements for students as those required of employees (criminal history background checks, fingerprinting, drug screening). The rationale for extending these requirements to dental hygiene students is the concept of due diligence and competency. Therefore, completing a criminal background check is required prior to admission to the dental hygiene program. The external clinical experiences are an essential component of the curriculum and anyone having a background barring participation cannot successfully enter and complete the program. An independent vendor will be identified by the Dental Hygiene Department to provide the criminal history background check. Students will be responsible for requesting the report and paying the fee(s).
- ❖ A clear Criminal History Background Check must be maintained throughout the entire Dental Hygiene Program.

Program Curriculum *

First Semester

BIO-104 Microbiology	4
BIO-109 Anatomy and Physiology I	4
DHY-101 Oral Hygiene I	3
DHY-108 Dental and Oral Anatomy and Physiology	2
DHY-109 Oral Embryology and Histology	2

Total: 15

Second Semester

BIO-209 Anatomy and Physiology II	4
DHY-201 Oral Hygiene II	3
DHY-205 Dental Radiology	3
DHY-209 Periodontology I	1
WRT-101 English Composition I	3
..... Humanities Elective *	3

Total: 17

Summer Session

DHY-200 Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene	2
DHY-208 Oral Hygiene Summer Clinical Techniques	1
DHY-220 Local Anesthesia	1
WRT-201 English Composition II	3

Total: 7

Third Semester

DHY-202 Oral Hygiene III	4
DHY-204 Dental Materials	2
DHY-206 Community Oral Health I	2
DHY-207 General and Oral Pathology	2
DHY-219 Periodontology II	1
COM-100 Speech Communication	3

Total: 14

Fourth Semester

DHY-203 Oral Hygiene IV	4
DHY-214 Nutrition in Dental Health	2
DHY-216 Community and Oral Health II	1
PSY-101 General Psychology	3
SOC-101 Sociology	3

Total: 13

Degree Total Credits: 66

**Anticipated Expenses for Dental Hygiene Students (subject to change)
(2024-2025)**

SEMESTER I

Books	approx \$600.00
1 st semester Hu-Friedy and/or PDI Instrument Kit**	approx \$1200.00
Student Kit**	approx \$1200.00
Online Clinical Evaluation (one time-application paid directly to Typhon)	\$90.00
Other supplies: caboodle, binders, sheet protectors	approx \$60.00
Uniforms/Lab Coats**	approx. \$200.00
Appropriate clinic shoes	approx. \$50.00
Garden State Conference	approx. \$90.00
Student American Dental Hygienists' Association Dues	\$65.00
HPSO/CAN liability Insurance Renewal	\$40.00

SEMESTER II

Books	approx. \$400.00
2 nd semester Hu-Friedy kit **	approx \$1350.00
2 nd semester Student Kit**	approx \$760.00
Radiology Badge (if lost, replacement fee)	approx. \$13.00
Loupes (recommended but optional)	approx. \$995.00
Loupe/headlight package	approx. \$1395.00

SEMESTER III

Books	approx. \$300.00
3 rd semester Student Kit** including isolation gowns	approx. \$760.00
Student American Dental Hygienists' Association Dues	\$65.00
NJDHA Annual Session Registration (GSC)	approx. \$90.00
Dental Hygiene Pin	\$25.00
HPSO/CAN liability Insurance Renewal	\$40.00

SEMESTER IV

Books	approx. \$200.00
Board Review (optional)	approx. \$450.00
National Boards (written)	approx. \$500.00
CDCA/NERB (clinical board)	approx. \$1100.00
Pinning Ceremony	approx. \$40.00/Student
Alumni Network	approx. \$25.00
Licensing Fee	varies by state (NJ approx.\$75.00)
NERB Local Anesthesia Board (written)	approx. \$140.00
Isolation Gowns	approx. \$40.00

Dental Hygiene Department

The Patient-Centered Standards of Care

It is the intent of the Dental Hygiene Department to provide patient-centered, evidence-based, comprehensive care in a safe, non-discriminatory, professional environment utilizing established patient care protocols.

- Professional communication between patient, dental hygiene student, staff and faculty
- Confidentiality related to patient records and communication
- Adherence to standard precautions related to infection control procedures
- Comprehensive assessment
- Formulation of the Dental Hygiene Care Plan
- Implementation of the Dental Hygiene Care Plan
- Evaluation of treatment outcomes
- Accurate documentation of all collected data, Dental Hygiene Care Plan and treatment provided, recommendations, and other information relevant to patient care and treatment
- Dental/Medical referrals as indicated
- Establishment of the appropriate Recare intervals
- Patient feedback related to clinical protocols and quality assurance of professional dental hygiene care services

Essential Functions for Dental Hygiene

- ❖ **Motor skills/physical health** – students must have sufficient physical ability and health to acquire specific technical skills that allow for the performance of the various oral hygiene procedures without inflicting harm to their well-being or that of their patients, peers, faculty, or staff. Ergonomic positioning of self and patient for the performance of palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic procedures; manipulation of hand and motor instruments; basic life support; operating foot controls; positioning and moving dental equipment and responding to visual and aural equipment signals are among, but not all inclusive of the requisite skills.
- ❖ **Sensory ability** – students must have adequate visual acuity to recognize and gather material from printed or handwritten formats, slides, films, videos, DVDs and radiographic images; to differentiate between variations in the depth of field, color, shade, size and shape of clinical findings or their diagrammatic representation; and to observe and respond to nonverbal communication. Auditory functions must be sufficient to facilitate communication with faculty, peers and patients; and to recognize and respond to sound emanating from malfunctioning equipment. Tactile sensitivity is crucial in differentiating between normal and abnormal structures of the head and neck as well as tooth anatomy, morphology, accretions, and normal and abnormal oral soft and hard tissue findings.
- ❖ **Communication** – in order to provide effective patient care services, and
- ❖ become an integral dental team member, the student must have sufficient command of English. Excellent communication skills are vital in gleaning information from lectures, texts, journals and other written materials as well as conversations with dental personnel, and to convey gleaned information to patients, peers, faculty and staff. Writing skills are essential for documentation of clinical charts. Patient education, problem solving, and collaborative exercises are all dependent upon the students' ability to communicate effectively.
- ❖ **Cognition** – administration of appropriate and timely dental hygiene care is a function of analysis, integration, and synthesis of a variety of sources. Problem solving requires the ability to calculate, summarize and interpret written, oral and diagrammatic/pictorial information. Furthermore, written documentation of relevant accurate and complete information in a prescribed, legally acceptable form is essential. Multi-tasking is also a requisite skill of the dental health care professional. The capacity to prioritize, in an appropriate sequence, may mean the difference between life and death in an emergency situation.

- ❖ **Behavioral** – students must possess the emotional stability necessary to fully utilize his/her intellectual capability in providing the patient with appropriate, efficient and safe treatment. This can be demonstrated by the exercise of good judgment; prompt completion of patient related responsibilities; development of compassionate and effective rapport with patients, peers and faculty; adaptation to change; display of flexibility; compliance with programmatic procedures and policies as well as standards of academic integrity; tactful and congenial management of apprehensive patients; and acceptance of reasonable feedback and constructive criticism. Maintaining a calm demeanor in the face of stress that is inherent in the clinical treatment of patients is another demonstration of the attitudinal and behavioral maturity required for success.

Bloodborne Infectious Disease(s)

Policy and Procedures

Applicants to the Dental Hygiene Program:

An applicant's limitation due to Bloodborne Infectious disease(s) including Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS are concerns that will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Information about the disease(s) will not be used as a basis for denying an applicant full consideration in the admission process. Confidentiality will be upheld and respected.

Faculty/Students/Supportive Staff:

Individuals with Bloodborne Infectious Disease(s) will have the same treatment and privileges as all other faculty, students and supportive staff. Every reasonable accommodation will be made to assist individuals who want to continue in their education or career.

Individuals who contract any communicable disease must notify the Academic Department Chair immediately. The incident will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. An appropriate course of action will be determined. Protection of the individual's confidentiality and privacy of information will follow the provisions of state law and federal regulations. Confidentiality will be upheld and respected. All health records will be maintained in locked files. Health information will be released with written consent.

Individuals with Bloodborne Infectious Disease(s) who pose a risk of transmitting a disease must consult with their healthcare provider to determine whether continuing to provide dental hygiene services represents a factual risk to the patient.

Standard precautions used in the Dental Hygiene Department are in compliance with current OSHA and CDC guidelines and meet current federal, state, and local guidelines.

Students:

Procedures related to their health records and medical clearance, are outlined in the Dental Hygiene Student Handbook. Students are responsible to demonstrate proof of immunity or immunization for Hepatitis B, MMR, varicella, and current tetanus and Tuberculosis skin test.

Patients:

Patients with Bloodborne Infectious Disease(s) are entitled to competent, compassionate, respectful, and confidential dental hygiene services. Patients have a right to be free from discrimination based on fear or prejudice. Appropriate dental hygiene care will not be denied to any patient.

- ❖ The tests and immunizations required by the college and dental hygiene program are necessary to protect the health of both the student operator and the patient and include a yearly Mantoux test for Tuberculosis, varicella titer, and any other immunizations required by the college.
- ❖ The Hepatitis B Vaccination is strongly recommended for all dental hygiene students. The vaccine should be received prior to entering the program. The rationale for obtaining the vaccination is that dental health care workers have a much higher incidence of hepatitis B than the general population. Additionally, transmission of the hepatitis B virus from dental health care workers to patients has been documented. The disease can have severe and fatal consequences. The vaccines currently used are safe, effective and made from a synthetic compound. They stimulate the production of protective antibodies in more than 96% of those immunized.
- ❖ Individual medical histories are reviewed by the school nurse, the department chair and a clinic dentist. Those students designated as medically compromised are required to provide medical clearance from their physician. A medical clearance must be received by the department chair by September 1st. Confidentiality will be observed. All medical histories are the property of the college and a legal document and must remain on file with the Department of Dental Hygiene.
- ❖ Students will provide care for each other in the clinical courses and laboratories beginning in the first semester. Each student will complete a medical history. **If you have any existing medical condition that requires adaptation, please inform your primary faculty member.**