

# Dental Hygiene Program

*A Joint Admissions Program with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ  
Division of Nursing & Allied Health — Curriculum Code: 2108  
Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree  
(Also see General Science—A.S. Degree Program)*

## *Why major in Dental Hygiene?*

This associate degree program, offered jointly by Essex County College and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, prepares an individual for a career as a registered dental hygienist. Dental Hygienists perform services that detect, prevent, and treat diseases of the mouth, under the supervision of a dentist. The program is accredited by the American Dental Association/Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Graduates are qualified to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the North Eastern Regional Board examinations to secure a license to practice. Dental hygienist can obtain employment in private dental offices, community and school health education programs, hospital dental clinics, and private industrial employee clinics.

## *If I major in Dental Hygiene, can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?*

The major is job-oriented and however most courses will transfer in the Bachelor of Science in Health Science program with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Thomas Edison State College (TESC).

## *Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?*

Admission into the professional component of the program is selective. Application deadline is May 1 for enrollment in the following spring semester. **Each student must meet with a program advisor prior to submission of an application.** The following are the minimum requirements for admission:

- Be at college level in reading, English, and mathematics, which may require the completion of developmental courses based on placement test scores.
- Complete a 34 credit pre-professional component of general education courses and basic science courses with a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
- **Attain a grade “C” or above in each of the following Pre-requisite courses: BIO 121, BIO 122, BIO 211, CHM 101, ENG 101, and PSY 101, with a minimum GPA of 2.75 or higher.**

## *How long will it take for me to complete this degree?*

- If you do not need developmental courses and have completed the pre-requisite courses for admission, you can complete the professional phase of the program in four academic semesters as a full-time student.
- Some courses may be web-enhanced. Students must have computer and Internet access.

## *Where should I direct specific questions about this program?*

Call the Allied Health Division at (973) 877-1868/3246.

## *Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:*

- ◆ Prophylaxis (clean teeth); Administer fluoride; Provide patient education and nutritional counseling; Expose, process, and mount radiographs; Examine head, neck and oral areas for disease; Fabricated mouth guards; Polish amalgam restorations; Work as a member of the dental health care team; and Administer local anesthesia;
- ◆ Exhibit competency as clinicians through demonstrated performance on the North East Regional Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the National Board Examination and feedback from employers surveys;
- ◆ Assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention for individuals and communities through participation in multiple dental health education projects;
- ◆ Perform multiple, advanced level dental auxiliary functions as defined in the New Jersey State Dental Practice act program goals;
- ◆ Obtain the RDH license;
- ◆ Demonstrate professional development through membership in the Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association and participation in related activities;
- ◆ Display professionalism in the delivery of comprehensive dental health care;
- ◆ Prepare individuals for employment as dental hygienists;
- ◆ Determine student satisfaction with education programming;
- ◆ Assess patient satisfaction with treatment service provided by students through data collection from the patient satisfaction survey.

## Dental Hygiene — A.A. S. Degree Program

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: (20 credits)	RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF COURSES:**
<p><b>Communications (6 credits)</b></p> <p>ENG 101 College Composition I 3</p> <p>ENG 102 College Composition II 3</p> <p><b>Social Science (6 credits)</b></p> <p>PSY 101 General Psychology 3</p> <p>SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology 3</p> <p><b>Lab Science (4 credits)</b></p> <p>CHM 101 College Chemistry I 4</p> <p><b>Math (4 credits)</b></p> <p>MTH 100 or higher 4</p> <p><b>MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:*</b> (52 credits)</p> <p>DAS 103 Dental Materials 3</p> <p>DAS 108 Practice Management 1</p> <p>DHY 100 Intro. To Clinical Dental Hygiene 4</p> <p>DHY 101 Dental Head &amp; Neck Anatomy 3</p> <p>DHY 102 Dental Radiology 3</p> <p>DHY 103 Clinical Dental Hygiene I 3</p> <p>DHY 104 Clinical Services I 3</p> <p>DHY 106 Nutrition 2</p> <p>DHY 107 Oral Embryology &amp; History 2</p> <p>DHY 110 Medical Emerg. in the Dental Office 1</p> <p>DHY 112 Introduction to the Dental Professions 4</p> <p>DHY 113 Dental Health Education 1</p> <p>DHY 200 Oral Pathology 2</p> <p>DHY 201 Periodontology I 2</p> <p>DHY 202 Clinical Dental Hygiene II 2</p> <p>DHY 203 Clinical Services II 3</p> <p>DHY 204 Dental Health Edu./ Comm. Dental Health 2</p> <p>DHY 205 Dental Specialties I 1</p> <p>DHY 207 Clinical Services III 3</p> <p>DHY 209 Pharmacology &amp; Oral Medicine 1</p> <p>DHY 210 Dental Specialties II 1</p> <p>DHY 211 Periodontology II 2</p> <p>DHY 213 Capstone Seminar 2</p> <p>DHY 215 Pain and Anxiety Control 1</p> <p><b>ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:</b> (15 credits)</p> <p>BIO 121 Anatomy and Physiology I 4</p> <p>BIO 122 Anatomy and Physiology II 4</p> <p>BIO 211 Microbiology 4</p> <p>ENG 109 Effective Speech 3</p> <p><b>Total Credits Required for Degree</b> 87</p>	<p>See program advisor for recommended sequence of general education requirements.</p> <p><b>Prerequisites</b></p> <p>BIO 121 Anatomy and Physiology I 4</p> <p>BIO 122 Anatomy and Physiology II 4</p> <p>BIO 211 Microbiology 4</p> <p>CHM 101 College Chemistry I 4</p> <p>ENG 101 College Composition I 3</p> <p>PSY 101 General Psychology I 3</p> <p><b>Spring Semester</b></p> <p>DHY 100 Intro. To Clinical Dental Hygiene 4</p> <p>DHY 101 Dental Head &amp; Neck Anatomy 3</p> <p>DHY 112 Introduction to the Dental Professions 4</p> <p>DAS 103 Dental Materials 3</p> <p>DHY 110 Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office 1</p> <p><b>Fall Semester</b></p> <p>DHY 113 Dental Health Education 1</p> <p>DHY 102 Dental Radiology 3</p> <p>DHY 103 Clinical Dental Hygiene I 3</p> <p>DHY 104 Clinical Services I 3</p> <p>DHY 107 Oral Embryology &amp; History 2</p> <p><b>Spring Semester</b></p> <p>DHY 106 Nutrition 2</p> <p>DHY 200 Oral Pathology 2</p> <p>DHY 204 Dental Health Edu./Comm. Dental Health 2</p> <p>DHY 209 Pharmacology &amp; Oral Medicine 1</p> <p>DHY 201 Periodontology I 2</p> <p>DHY 202 Clinical Dental Hygiene II 2</p> <p>DHY 203 Clinical Services II 3</p> <p>DHY 205 Dental Specialties 1</p> <p><b>Fall Semester</b></p> <p>DAS 108 Practice Management 1</p> <p>DHY 213 Capstone Seminar 2</p> <p>DHY 211 Periodontology II 2</p> <p>DHY 207 Clinical Services III 3</p> <p>DHY 210 Dental Specialties II 1</p> <p>DHY 215 Pain and Anxiety Control 1</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer students must complete a minimum of 15 credits at ECC</li> <li>• ALL DHY or Dental Hygiene courses are offered through UMDNJ—School of Health Related Professions</li> <li>• <b>*CORE COURSES:</b> A grade of "C" is required in core dental course. The minimum passing grade for all courses is "C." If you earn a grade below a "C," you need to repeat that course. A failed course may only be repeated once.</li> </ul>

\*\*NOTE: This plan assumes the completion of all required developmental courses in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics as well as other pre- and co-requisites for