

# 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 (CDA). Graduates are qualified to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the North East Regional Board examinations to secure a license to practice. Dental hygienists 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 of “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 2.5 or higher.
- Complete the Keystone Test which is a standardized Allied Health examination.

## 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-based. 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 perform the following:

- Prophylaxis (clean teeth)
  - Administer fluoride
  - Provide patient education and nutritional counseling
  - Expose, process, and mount radiographs
  - Examine head, neck and oral areas for disease
  - Fabricate mouth guards
  - Polish amalgam restorations
  - Work as a member of the dental health care team.
  - 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 educational 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)

#### Communications (3 credits)

ENG 101	College Composition I	3
ENG 102	College Composition II	3

#### Social Science (6 credits)

PSY 101	General Psychology I	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	3

#### Lab Science (8 credits)

CHM 101	College Chemistry I	4
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#### Math (4 credits)

MTH 100 or higher		3-4
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### MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS: (52 credits)

DAS 103	Dental Materials	3
DAS 108	Practice Management	1
DHY 100	Intro. To Clinical Dental Hygiene	4
DHY 101	Dental Head & Neck Anatomy	3
DHY 102	Dental Radiology	3
DHY 103	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	3
DHY 104	Clinical Services I	3
DHY 106	Nutrition	3
DHY 107	Oral Embryology & Histology	3
DHY 110	Medical Emerg. in the Dental Office	1
DHY 112	Introduction to the Dental Professions	4
DHY 113	Dental Health Education	1
DHY 200	Oral Pathology	3
DHY 201	Periodontology I	3
DHY 202	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3
DHY 203	Clinical Services II	3
DHY 204	Dental Health Edu./ Comm. Dental Health	3
DHY 205	Dental Specialties I	1
DHY 207	Clinical Services III	3
DHY 209	Pharmacology & Oral Medicine	3
DHY 210	Dental Specialties II	3
DHY 211	Periodontology II	3
DHY 213	Capstone Seminar	3
DHY 215	Pain and Anxiety Control	3

### ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS: (15 credits)

BIO 121	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 122	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 211	Microbiology	4
ENG 109	Effective Speech	3

**Total Credits Required for Degree 87**

#### \*CORE COURSES:

A grade of "C" is required in core dental courses. The minimum passing grade for all other courses is "C." If you earn a grade below "C," you need to repeat that course. A failed course may be repeated only once.

### RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF COURSES:\*\*

See program advisor for recommended sequence of general education requirements.

#### Prerequisites

BIO 121	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 122	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 211	Microbiology	4
CHM 101	College Chemistry I	4
ENG 101	College Composition I	3
PSY 101	General Psychology I	3

#### Spring Semester

DHY 101	Dental Head & Neck Anatomy	3
DHY 112	Introduction to the Dental Professions	4
DAS 103	Dental Materials	3
DHY 110	Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office	1

#### Fall Semester

DHY 113	Dental Health Education	1
DHY 102	Dental Radiology	3
DHY 103	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	3
DHY 104	Clinical Services I	3
DHY 107	Oral Embryology & Histology	3

#### Spring Semester

DHY 106	Nutrition	3
DHY 200	Oral Pathology	3
DHY 204	Dental Health Edu./Comm. Dental Health	3
DHY 209	Pharmacology & Oral Medicine	3
DHY 201	Periodontology I	3
DHY 202	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3
DHY 203	Clinical Services II	3
DHY 205	Dental Specialties I	1

#### Fall Semester

DAS 108	Practice Management	1
DHY 213	Capstone Seminar	3
DHY 211	Periodontology II	3
DHY 207	Clinical Services III	3
DHY 210	Dental Specialties II	3
DHY 215	Pain and Anxiety Control	3

**Note:** Transfer students must complete a minimum of 15 credits at ECC

All DHY or Dental Hygiene courses are offered through UMDNJ – School of Health Related Professions

**\*\*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 some of the courses, as listed in the Course Descriptions section.