

Dental Hygiene, A.A.S.

Program Code

AAS.DHY

CIP

51.0602

Type

A.A.S.

DENTAL HYGIENE

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Additional information is on the DH program website: <http://www.calhoun.edu/health-sciences/dental-hygiene>

CAREER

A registered dental hygienist (RDH) is a licensed dental professional whose primary role is providing preventive oral healthcare and patient education. As a member of the dental team, the RDH is responsible for reviewing and recording a patient's health and dental history, exposing x-rays, and removing calculus, plaque, and stains from the teeth. The hygienist also provides preventive services such as applying sealants, fluoride, and desensitizing agents as well as taking impressions of teeth and fabricating whitening materials. They work in close physical proximity to patients and so are at risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Most hygienists work in a private dental practice and generally direct their own tasks.

ACCREDITATION

The dental hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. Web address: <https://coda.ada.org/>

LICENSURE

DH graduates are qualified to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam and a clinical skills exam. Successful completion grants the individual eligibility to apply for licensure in the state of their choice. The Alabama Board of Dental Examiners application for licensure as a dental hygienist states: *The applicant must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any law dealing with the administering or dispensing of legend drugs, including controlled substances.*

Once a student is accepted for enrollment, the program is designed to be completed in 5 consecutive terms. The coursework is progressive, requiring a grade of 75% or higher in each DHY course to progress to the next semester and a "C" or higher in general education courses. General education classes may be taken prior to beginning the program or once enrolled. Graduates are awarded an Associate in Applied Science Degree.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A new class of DH students is enrolled once a year and begins in the fall semester. Applicants must minimally:

1. Meet all admission requirements of CCC
2. Submit an unofficial CCC transcript documenting all previously completed applicable coursework taken at Calhoun or accepted in transfer by the CCC Office of Admissions and Records,
3. Submit an ACT composite score of 18 or > from a test taken in the past 3 years

-or-

Submit a Next-Generation ACCUPLACER test with a reading score of 245 or > and a writing score of 4 or > from a test taken in the past 3 years

4. Prior to application to the program, complete the following courses with a grade of C or higher :
 - BIO 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I
 - BIO 220 General Microbiology
 - CHM 104 Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry
5. Submit an online DH program application by the designated deadline.

Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance. Class size is limited and there is a selective application process. An application and the selection criteria can be found on the DH webpage.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students enrolled in the dental hygiene program are required to successfully complete both academic and clinical requirements. The purpose of the DH Eligibility Criteria, found on the DH webpage, is to delineate the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills deemed minimally necessary for admission, progression, and graduation, and for the provision of safe and effective client care. Safety is paramount in all health programs. The College endorses the Americans' with Disabilities Act. If a student cannot meet the Eligibility Criteria it is their responsibility to request appropriate reasonable accommodations through the Student Disability Services Office.

HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS REQUIREMENTS

- Retain reliable transportation to and from the campus and assigned clinical education facilities.
- Comply with a dress code that includes an assigned uniform
- Undergo a health examination, TB screening, and validate immunity to infectious diseases
- Submit proof of current certification in basic life support at the healthcare provider level
- Purchase low-cost malpractice insurance through the CCC health sciences division
- Submit to a background check by a designated vendor
- Undergo drug and alcohol testing by a designated vendor

In the interest of the patients they will serve, every health science student is obligated to complete the above requirements. Policies for the background check and drug testing are provided upon enrollment. Results may prohibit a student from participating in clinical education and necessitate withdrawal or course failure.

COST

In addition to tuition, health students will have expenses related to the listed requirements, books, and associated supplies. Approximated costs are discussed in information sessions and program orientation.

POLICIES

Additional DH program information including policies on application, readmission, transfer students, and advanced standing are available on the DH webpage or by contacting the program director. The curriculum plan and policies of the DH program are subject to change. Written notice will be given to students enrolled in the program prior to implementation.

General Education Requirements

Item #	Title	Credits
BIO 201	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 202	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 220	General Microbiology	4
	CHM 104 OR CHM 111	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
	Humanities Elective - Excluding Foreign Language and Speech (PHL 3206 preferred)	
ORI 110	Freshman Seminar	1
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology	3
	SPH 106 or SPH 107	3
	Math Elective	3-4

Program Core Requirements

Item #	Title	Credits
DHY 110	Dental Hygiene Theory	2
DHY 112	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
DHY 114	Dental Radiology	3
DHY 116	Dental Anatomy, Histology and Embryology	2
DHY 118	Anatomy, Embryology, and Histology of the Head and Neck	2
DHY 120	Dental Materials	2
DHY 122	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	3
DHY 124	Dental Hygiene Theory II	2
DHY 126	Periodontology	2
DHY 128	Pharmacology/Medical Emergencies	2
DHY 130	Biological Chemistry and Applied Nutrition	1
DHY 132	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	2
DHY 134	Dental Hygiene Theory III	1
DHY 210	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHY 212	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	4
DHY 214	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1
DHY 216	Dental Research	1
DHY 217	Community Dental Health	1
DHY 218	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	4
DHY 220	Dental Hygiene Theory V	1
	Total Credits	76-77